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Affectionate Easter greetings  
to my dear friend -  
W. Oden Roberts,  
who unconsciously gave  
suggestion for the title  
to this book!

Gertrude Moore Bishop  
March, 1921.



## **STAR-POINTS**



# STAR-POINTS

SONGS OF JOY, FAITH, AND PROMISE  
FROM THE PRESENT-DAY POETS

SELECTED BY  
MRS. WALDO RICHARDS

*"The flaming of a torch across the years  
And through the world the rising of a star"*



BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
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**TO MY DEAR FRIENDS  
CORA LEE RICE  
AND  
SUSAN DAY CLARK**



## FOREWORD

THERE has never been a time in the history of our country when the call was more insistent for us to emphasize the inspiring note of Emerson's message:

“Hitch your wagon to a star!”

In this period of reconstruction, following the awful cataclysm which has engulfed the entire world, there is larger need than ever before of an uplifting and sustaining faith. Out of this thought has come the title of the book:

“Star-Points.”

The selections chosen from the Modern Poets are such as would naturally fall under the points of my star: Joy, Vision, Love, Beauty, Aspiration — with two attributes added, for we may never lose the association of the Star with Faith and Promise. All these “Points” we must grasp and hold if we would be carried through the apprehension, friction, and confusion of the present time into the clear vision of a New Day!

**GERTRUDE MOORE RICHARDS**

*November, 1920*



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## **STAR-POINTS**

## PANDORA'S SONG

*Of wounds and sore defeat  
I made my battle stay;  
Winged sandals for my feet  
I wove of my delay;  
Of weariness and fear,  
I made my shouting spear;  
Of loss, and doubt, and dread,  
And swift oncoming doom  
I made a helmet for my head  
And a floating plume.  
From the shutting mist of death,  
From the failure of the breath,  
I made a battle-horn to blow  
Across the vales of overthrow.  
O hearken, love, the battle-horn!  
The triumph clear, the silver scorn!  
O hearken where the echoes bring,  
Down the grey disastrous morn,  
Laughter and rallying!*

WILLIAM VAUGHN MOODY

## STAR-POINTS

• •

### STARS

ALONE in the night  
On a dark hill  
With pines around me  
Spicy and still,

And a heaven full of stars  
Over my head,  
White and topaz  
And misty red;

Myriads with beating  
Hearts of fire  
That æons  
Cannot vex or tire;

Up the dome of heaven  
Like a great hill,  
I watch them marching  
Stately and still,

And I know that I  
Am honored to be  
Witness  
Of so much majesty.

SARA TEASDALE

### THE DAWN WIND

[THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY]

At two o'clock in the morning, if you open your window and  
listen,

You will hear the feet of the Wind that is going to call the sun.  
And the trees in the shadow rustle and the trees in the moonlight  
glisten,

And though it is deep, dark night, you feel that the night is done.

So do the cows in the field. They graze for an hour and lie down,  
Dozing and chewing the cud; or a bird in the ivy wakes,  
Chirrups one note and is still, and the restless Wind strays on,  
Fidgeting far down the road, till, softly, the darkness breaks.

Back comes the Wind full strength with a blow like an angel's  
wing,

Gentle but waking the world, as he shouts: "The Sun! The Sun!"  
And the light floods over the fields and the birds begin to sing,  
And the Wind dies down in the grass. It is day and his work is  
done.

So when the world is asleep, and there seems no hope of her  
waking  
Out of some long, bad dream that makes her mutter and  
moan,  
Suddenly, all men arise to the noise of fetters breaking,  
And every one smiles at his neighbor and tells him his soul is his  
own!

RUDYARD KIPLING

#### THE GUERDON OF THE SUN

Or all the fonts from which man's heart has drawn  
Some essence of the majesty of earth,  
Some intimation of the human worth,  
I reckon first the sunset and the dawn.

For those were fires whose splendor smote his clay  
With witness of a light beyond the clod;  
Enshrined, he made of radiance a god,  
And found his benediction in the day.

And all his eager hands have found to do,  
And all his tireless hope and love unite,  
In some wise take their symbol from the light,  
Our very heaven based on heaven's blue.

Tilth beyond tilth, he waits upon the sun,  
The first to goad, the last to calm his breast,  
With dawns that like a clarion break his rest,  
And after-glowes that crown his labor done.

GEORGE STERLING

### I HAVE CARED FOR YOU, MOON

I HAVE cared for you, Moon,  
Cold as you are,  
Frozen on the sky  
With your dangling star.

It is not your shape,  
Nor your lure of light,  
Holding the sun  
On your breast all night:

It is not your voice,  
I have never heard  
Your glittering cry,  
Your wandering word.

Yet you are romance  
And you are song.  
I have cared for you, Moon,  
Long, long,

Since I first paid toll  
With a coin of dream  
On the road you silver.  
You peer and gleam

With a wistful look  
On your haunted face,  
As though Earth were  
A wonderful place.

GRACE HAZARD CONKLING

#### A PRAYER FOR THE OLD COURAGE

STILL let us go the way of beauty; go  
The way of loveliness; still let us know  
Those paths that lead where Pan and Daphne run,  
Where roses prosper in the summer sun.

The earth may rock with War. Still is there peace  
In many a place to give the heart release  
From this too-vibrant pain that drives men mad.  
Let us go back to the old loves we had.

Let us go back, to keep alive the gleam,  
To cherish the immortal, Godlike dream;  
Not as poor cravens flying from the fight,  
But as sad children seeking the clean light.

Oh, doubly precious now is solitude;  
Thrice dear yon quiet star above the wood,  
Since panic and the sundering shock of War  
Have laid in ruins all we hungered for.

Brave soldiers of the spirit, guard ye well  
Mountain and fort and massive citadel;  
But keep ye white forever — keep ye whole  
The battlements of dream within the soul! .

CHARLES HANSON TOWNE

#### WHO WALKS WITH BEAUTY

Who walks with Beauty has no need of fear;  
The sun and moon and stars keep pace with him,  
Invisible hands restore the ruined year,  
And time, itself, grows beautifully dim.  
One hill will keep the footprints of the moon,  
That came and went a hushed and secret hour;  
One star at dusk will yield the lasting boon:  
Remembered Beauty's white, immortal flower.

Who takes of Beauty wine and daily bread,  
Will know no lack when bitter years are lean;  
The brimming cup is by, the feast is spread,—  
The sun and moon and stars his eyes have seen,  
Are for his hunger and the thirst he slakes:  
The wine of Beauty and the bread he breaks.

DAVID MORTON

## A BALLADE-CATALOGUE OF LOVELY THINGS

I WOULD make a list against the evil days  
Of lovely things to hold in memory:  
First I set down my lady's lovely face,  
For earth has no such lovely thing as she;  
And next I add, to bear her company,  
The great-eyed virgin star that morning brings;  
Then the wild-rose upon its little tree —  
So runs my catalogue of lovely things.

The enchanted dogwood, with its ivory trays,  
The water-lily in its sanctuary  
Of reeded pools, and dew-drenched lilac sprays,  
For these, of all fair flowers, the fairest be;  
Next write I down the great name of the sea,  
Lonely in greatness as the names of kings;  
Then the young moon that hath us all in fee —  
So runs my catalogue of lovely things.

Imperial sunsets that in crimson blaze  
Along the hills, and, fairer still to me,  
The fireflies dancing in a netted maze  
Woven of twilight and tranquillity;  
Shakespeare and Virgil, their high poesy;  
Then a great ship, splendid with snowy wings,  
Voyaging on into eternity —  
So runs my catalogue of lovely things.

**ENVOI**

Prince, not the gold bars of thy treasury,  
Not all thy jewelled sceptres, crowns and rings,  
Are worth the honeycomb of the wild bee —  
So runs my catalogue of lovely things.

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE

**POETRY**

I AM the reality of things that seem;  
The great transmuter, melting loss to gain,  
Langour to love, and fining joy from pain.  
I am the waking, who am called the dream;  
I am the sun, all light reflects my gleam;  
I am the altar-fire within the fane;  
I am the force of the refreshing rain;  
I am the sea to which flows every stream.  
I am the utmost height there is to climb;  
I am the truth, mirrored in fancy's glass;  
I am stability, all else will pass;  
I am eternity, encircling time;  
Kill me, none may; conquer me, nothing can —  
I am God's soul, fused in the soul of man.

ELLA CROSBY HEATH

## THE ELFIN ARTIST

In a glade of an elfin forest  
When Sussex was Eden-new,  
I came on an elvish painter  
And watched as his picture grew.  
A harebell nodded beside him.  
He dipt his brush in the dew.

And it might be the wild thyme round him  
That shone in that dark strange ring;  
But his brushes were bees' antennæ,  
His knife was a wasp's blue sting;  
And his gorgeous exquisite palette  
Was a butterfly's fan-shaped wing.

And he mingled its powdery colours  
And painted the lights that pass,  
On a delicate cobweb canvas  
That gleamed like a magic glass,  
And bloomed like a banner of elf-land,  
Between two stalks of grass;

Till it shone like an angel's feather  
With sky-born opal and rose,  
And gold from the foot of the rainbow,  
And colours that no man knows;

And I laughed in the sweet May weather,  
Because of the themes he chose.

For he painted the things that matter,  
The tints that we all pass by,  
Like the little blue wreaths of incense  
That the wild thyme breathes to the sky;  
Or the first white bud of the hawthorn,  
And the light in a blackbird's eye;

And the shadows on soft white cloud-peaks  
That carolling skylarks throw,  
Dark dots on the slumbering splendours  
That under the wild wings flow,  
Wee shadows like violets trembling  
On the unseen breasts of snow;

With petals too lovely for colour  
That shake to the rapturous wings,  
And grow as the bird draws near them,  
And die as he mounts and sings;—  
Ah, only those exquisite brushes  
Could paint these marvellous things.

ALFRED NOYES

### THE MUSIC OF A TREE

ONCE, walking home, I passed beneath a Tree,  
It filled the air like dark stone statuary,  
    It was so quiet and still,  
    Its thick green leaves a hill  
Of strange and faint earth-branching melody:

Over a wall it hung its leaf-starred wood.  
And as I lonely there beneath it stood,  
    In that sky-hollow street  
    Where rang no human feet,  
Sweet music flowed and filled me with its flood;

And all my weariness then fell away,  
The houses were more lovely than by day;  
    The Moon and that old Tree  
    Sang there; and secretly,  
With throbbing heart, tip-toe I stole away.

W. J. TURNER

### A TREE AT DUSK

WITH secrets in their eyes the blue-winged Hours  
Rustle through the meadow  
Dropping shadow.

Yawning among red flowers,  
The Moon Child with her golden hoop  
And a pink star drifting after,  
Leans to me where I droop.

I hear her delicate, soft laughter,  
And through my hair her tiny fingers creep....

I shall sleep.

**WINIFRED WELLES**

#### **LEAF-BURNING**

THE flame of my life burns low  
Under the cluttered days  
Like a fire of leaves.  
But always a little blue, sweet-smelling smoke  
Goes up to God.

**KARLE WILSON BAKER**

#### **THE PINES**

In lofty galleries of greenery  
They rise and meet the azure of the sky,  
A pillared nave whose arches frail and high  
Breathe with an organ's solemn melody:  
Now like the minor surging of the sea  
Or low and faint as wings that startle by —

As sweet-tuned winds that quaveringly sigh  
Adown dim aisles of cloistered pageantry.

While through the stretches of this lovely fane  
The swaying censers shed a drowsy smell  
Heavy with some rare fragrance from afar,  
Upon the pavement falls the sunset stain,  
The dusk creeps on . . . softly a twilight bell . . .  
And now, the altar-candle of a star!

THOMAS S. JONES, JR.

### ASPIRATION

Above the crestward-climbing pines,  
Above the dewy slopes of lawn,  
Above the copse's coil of vines,  
I have gone up to meet the dawn.

I have grown weary of the night  
That from day's gold mine eye debars, —  
Of seeing up the purple height  
Troop the processional of stars.

I yearn to mark the shattering beam .  
Backward the gates of darkness throw;  
I long to hear across my dream  
The wakening trump of morning blow.

Hark! 'tis the first bird-note! — and mark,

    Flushing the east, a crimson ray! —

Soul, from the girdling wastes of dark

    Go thou, too, up to meet the day!

CLINTON SCOLLARD

### TRIUMPHALIS

SOUL, art thou sad again,

    With the old sadness?

Thou shalt be glad again

    With a new gladness,

When April sun and rain

Mount to the teeming brain

    With the earth-madness.

When from the mould again,

Spurning disaster,

Spring shoots unfold again,

Follow thou faster

Out of the drear domain

Of dark, defeat, and pain,

Praising the Master.

Light for thy guide again,

Ample and splendid;

Love at thy side again,

All doubting ended.

(Ah, by the dragon slain,  
For nothing small or vain  
Michael contended!)

Thou shalt take heart again,  
No more despairing;  
Play thy great part again,  
Loving and caring.  
Hark, how the gold refrain  
Runs through the iron strain,  
Splendidly daring!

Thou shalt grow strong again,  
Confident, tender, —  
Battle with wrong again,  
Be truth's defender, —  
Of the immortal train  
Born to attempt, attain,  
Never surrender!

BLISS CARMAN

#### LAST SONG IN AN OPERA

FROM the apple bough many petals fly tossed of the wind,  
Yet goldenly heavy it hangs on blue autumn eves  
*(All things come unto him whose heart believes).*

The dove, though the tempest-swept sun her bright eyes blind,  
Beats onward fast.

Till with clapped, sailing wings down at the last  
To the loved cote she come.

*Ah, the long way of Love, but Love comes home!*

The silver river wanders and circles time out of mind,  
Yet turns at length where the sea tosses her smoking sheaves  
*(All things come unto him whose heart believes).*

So golden-feathered Love beats his high course, though blind,  
Until that hour

When, downward stooping through the flaming shower,  
Into the heart he come.

*Ah, the long way of Love, but Love comes home!*

ROBERT NICHOLS

#### MY APRIL

THERE is a day of April in my heart,  
Flooded with fragrance of plowed fields and rain,  
And laughter at the cross-roads where we part,  
And laughter at the place we meet again.

The magic of my April has no name;  
Not Spring, nor all the glory to come after, —  
My April is the Joy the earth became,  
Hearing the sweet abandon of your laughter.

The memory of laughter lingers still,  
Like some bird's singing after he has flown,  
Or echoes thrown from hill to answering hill,  
That never die or leave the heart alone.

Death cannot still the echoes Love awakes,  
So — April and your laughter he forsakes.

B. PRESTON CLARK, JR.

#### W'EN SPREENG EES COM'

OH! 'scusa, lady, 'scusa, pleass',  
For dat I stop an' stare;  
I no can halpa do like dees  
W'en Spreeng ees een da air.

I s'pose you know how moocha joy  
Ees feell da heart of leetla boy,  
W'en beeg parade ees passa by,  
Eef he can climb da pole so high;  
Or find on window-seell a seat  
Where he can see da whola street,  
An' watch da soldiers march 'way  
An' hear da sweetsa music play.  
Ah! lady, eef dees joy you know,  
You would no frown upon me so.

For, like da boy dat climb da pole,  
From deep eensida me my soul —  
My hongry, starva soul — ees rise  
Onteell eet looka from my eyes  
At all dat com' so sweet an' fair  
W'en now da Spreeng ees een da air;  
At greena grass, at buddin' trees  
Dat wave deir branches een da breeze,  
At leetla birds dat hop an' seeng  
Baycause dey are so glad for Spreeng —  
An' you dat look so pure, so sweet,  
O! lady, *you* are part of eet!

So, 'scusa, lady, 'scusa, pleass',  
For dat I stop an' stare;  
I no can halpa do like dees  
W'en Spreeng ees een da air.

T. A. DALY

#### A SONG OF APRIL

THE censer of the eglantine was moved  
By little lane winds, and the watching faces  
Of garden flowerets, which of old she loved  
Peep shyly outward from their silent places.  
But when the sun arose the flowers grew bolder,  
And she will be in white, I thought, and she

Will have a cuckoo on her either shoulder,  
And woodbine twines and fragrant wings of pea.

And I will meet her on the hills of South,  
And I will lead her to a northern water,  
My wild one, the sweet beautiful uncouth,  
The eldest maiden of the Winter's daughter.  
And down the rainbows of her noon shall slide  
Lark music, and the little sunbeam people,  
And nomad wings shall fill the river side,  
And ground winds rocking in the lily's steeple.

FRANCIS LEDWIDGE

#### A BLACKBIRD SUDDENLY

HEAVEN is in my hand, and I  
Touch a heart-beat of the sky,  
Hearing a blackbird's cry.

Strange, beautiful, unquiet thing,  
Lone flute of God, how can you sing  
Winter to spring?

You have outdistanced every voice and word,  
And given my spirit wings until it stirred  
Like you — a bird!

JOSEPH AUSLANDER

## LATE PLOWING

This year the rains have made the plowing late,  
And now the edges of the field are green,  
Birch and viburnum crowding close against  
Low, grey stone walls, young leaves fresh washed and clean.

The apple trees are growing faintly pink,  
Like some new morning dawning on a hill;  
The sharp plow, leaving billows in its wake,  
Sails over that dark sea whose waves are still.

Now who shall dream if not the man who plows?  
So very near the secret of the earth,  
He deals with mystery and plans in faith  
The miracles of death and of rebirth.

The catbird in the hedges knows a song  
More sweet than other birds the plowman hears.  
The old, old earth, new turned, with a fine scent  
Exhales the promise of her changeless years.

The slim, young alders lean against the wall,  
All decked with fringes green and delicate;  
The red-brown earth lies ready in the sun.  
This year the rains have made the plowing late.

LOUISE DRISCOLL

## SOWING

IT was a perfect day  
For sowing; just  
As sweet and dry was the ground  
As tobacco-dust.

I tasted deep the hour  
Between the far  
Owl's chuckling first soft cry  
And the first star.

A long stretched hour it was;  
Nothing undone  
Remained; the early seeds  
All safely sown.

And now, hark at the rain,  
Windless and light,  
Half a kiss, half a tear,  
Saying good-night.

EDWARD THOMAS

## MONOTONE

THE monotone of the rain is beautiful,  
And the sudden rise and slow relapse  
Of the long multitudinous rain.

The sun on the hills is beautiful,  
Or a captured sunset, sea-flung,  
Bannered with fire and gold.

A face I know is beautiful—  
With fire and gold of sky and sea,  
And the peace of long warm rain.

CARL SANDBURG

#### EASTER SONG

My soul 's a belfry full of bells,  
With warbling birds behind its bars!  
I see the softly mirrored stars  
That tremble in the glassy wells.

My soul 's a holy place enshrin'd,  
My soul 's a bower all in leaf!  
The little children weaned of grief  
Go wafting songs a-down the wind.

My soul is full of Archangels,  
And full of star-y-pointing flight!  
I hear the flail of Fates that smite  
The hoarded grain with secret spells.

My soul is all a-brim with bliss,  
My soul is full of Gods divine!  
O Love, come bind these eyes of mine,  
And lead me where thy pathway is!

**STUART MERRILL**  
*(Translated by Wilfred Thorley)*

### RESURRECTION

Lo! Mid the splendor of eternal spaces  
Pierced by the smile of God,  
I looked last night upon celestial faces,  
The singing ethers trod.  
World upon world in rhythmic measure wheeling,  
Millions of blazing suns like censers swung,  
When down the lanes of light a Voice came pealing,  
Upon my ear its clarion message flung:  
“To-day is Resurrection! Look not hence  
To some far distant trumpet call to sound  
That hour when, as the spirit’s recompense,  
Man’s body shall be summoned from the ground.  
O feeble souls bound close with superstition,  
O blind and halt and deaf that will not hear,  
There is no other miracle fruition  
Than thrills the Cosmos *now*, from sphere to sphere.

“Earth at this hour is shaken with the passion  
Of resurrection fire.

Stupendous forces move and mold and fashion  
Unto God's great desire.  
The only death is death in man's perception;  
The only grave is grave of blinded eyes.  
Creation's marvel mocks at man's deception —  
It is man's *mind* that from its tomb must rise.

"Waken O world, if you would glimpse the wonder  
Of God's great Primal Plan.  
Open O ears, if you would hear the thunder  
Hurled from the heights to man.  
How long shall Christ's high message be rejected?  
Two thousand years have passed since it was told.  
Must One again be born and resurrected  
Ere man shall grasp the secret, ages old?

"What, then, the miracle of Easter day?  
What meant the riven tomb, the hidden Might  
That conquered death and rolled the stone away  
And brought the Master back to mortal sight?  
This! That throughout the worlds, One Life, unbroken  
Rushes and flames in an unending vow.  
Death *cannot be*, and never has been spoken —  
God and immortal life are *here and now!*"

ANGELA MORGAN

## **BEAUTY**

You bid me stay; I go  
Whither no man may go.

I am the rose's soul,  
The breast of the oriole.

I am the rainbow's arc,  
The star on the breast of the dark.

Sever me, I am still  
The wonder on the hill.

Part me, and I am yet  
The heart of the violet.

With the first flush of morn  
I am each day re-born.

**CLINTON SCOLLARD**

## **GIFTS**

For these let me be thankful on this day;  
Warm spreading sun and flowers that brightly bloom,  
The breath of scented springtime in my room.  
The open sky of blue above my way —

Swift winds that sweep the clouds across the bay  
And sounds that pulse the earth with sudden song:  
Peepers, and whippoorwills and birds whose long  
Sweet notes spill golden harmonies of May;  
These but the symbols of a greater thing —  
The warm blood in my veins, the eager heart  
That at each touch of Beauty feels the start  
Of fine resurgence — quickened as the spring.  
Yea, above all, oh let me greatly prize  
The Gift of Life, supreme, through Beauty's eyes!

BLANCHE SHOEMAKER WAGSTAFF

#### A CHANT OUT OF DOORS

God of grave nights,  
God of brave mornings,  
God of silent noon,  
Hear my salutation!

For where the rapids rage white and scornful,  
I have passed safely, filled with wonder;  
Where the sweet pools dream under willows,  
I have been swimming, filled with life.

God of round hills,  
God of green valleys,  
God of clear springs,  
Hear my salutation!

For where the moose feeds, I have eaten berries,  
Where the moose drinks, I have drunk deep.  
When the storm crashed through broken heavens —  
And under clear skies — I have known joy.

God of great trees,  
God of wild grasses,  
God of little flowers,  
Hear my salutation!

For where the deer crops and the beaver plunges,  
Near the river I have pitched my tent;  
Where the pines cast aromatic needles  
On a still floor, I have known peace.

God of grave nights,  
God of brave mornings,  
God of silent noon,  
Hear my salutation!

MARGUERITE WILKINSON

#### THE NATURALIST ON A JUNE SUNDAY

My old gardener leans on his hoe,  
Tells me the way that green things grow;  
“Goin’ to church? Why no.  
All nature’s church enough for me!”  
Says he.

“Preachin’ o’ flower and choir o’ bird,  
An’ the wind passin’ the plate —  
Sweetest service that ever *I* heard,  
That’s straight!  
*Eternal Rest?*  
What for, friend?  
Gimme a swarm o’ bees to tend,  
A honey-makin’, world without end,  
That’s what *I’d* like the best!  
(Scoop ‘em right up an’ find the queen,  
They ’d not sting me — the bees ain’ mean!)

“Heaven’s all right!  
But still I guess I’ll kinder miss  
The Lady Lunar moth at night  
And the White Wanderer butterfly  
Crawlin’ out of its chrysalis!  
I want my heaven human too,  
‘Twixt me an’ you —  
Why I’d jus’ love to see  
A chipmunk hop up to the Lord  
An’ eat right out o’ His dread Hand  
Same as it does to me!  
Eternity — eternity —  
Don’t it sound grand?  
But say  
*What’s the matter with today?*

Just step into the wood an' take a look!  
Ain't that a page o' teachin' from the Holy Book?  
'He that hath eyes to see  
An' ears to hear' —  
That's good enough for me!  
I guess God's pretty near,  
He'll understand, I know,  
Why I ain't in no hurry to let June go!"

My old gardener turns to his hoe,  
Helping the green things how to grow,  
"The Misses can go to church for me!  
Amen!" says he.

LEONORA SPEYER

#### THE MOCKING FAIRY

"WON'T you look out of your window, Mrs. Gill?"  
Quoth the Fairy, niddin, nodding in the garden;  
"Can't you look out of your window, Mrs. Gill?"  
Quoth the Fairy, laughing softly in the garden;  
But the air was still, the cherry boughs were still,  
And the ivy-tod 'neath the empty sill,  
And never from her window looked out Mrs. Gill  
On the Fairy shrilly mocking in the garden.

"What have they done with you, you poor Mrs. Gill?"  
Quoth the Fairy, brightly glancing in the garden;

"Where have they hidden you, you poor old Mrs. Gill?"  
Quoth the Fairy dancing lightly in the garden;  
But night's faint veil now wrapped the hill,  
Stark 'neath the stars stood the dead-still Mill,  
And out of her cold cottage never answered Mrs. Gill  
The Fairy mimbling mambling in the garden.

WALTER DE LA MARE

#### NATURE'S FRIEND

SAY what you like,  
All things love me!  
I pick no flowers —  
That wins the Bee.

The Summer's Moths  
Think my hand one  
To touch their wings —  
With Wind and Sun.

The garden Mouse  
Comes near to play;  
Indeed, he turns  
His eyes away.

The Wren knows well  
I rob no nest;  
When I look in,  
She still will rest.

The hedge stops Cows,  
Or they would come  
After my voice  
Right to my home.

The Horse can tell,  
Straight from my lip,  
My hand could not  
Hold any whip.

Say what you like,  
All things love me!  
Horse, Cow, and Mouse,  
Bird, Moth and Bee.

WILLIAM H. DAVIES

### MOONFLOWERS

THESE frail, white blooms have lit the summer night  
Like ghosts of beauty that had gone too soon,—  
With something less than any glimmering light  
That sways and faints and trembles in the moon.  
I think the Earth grows half-regretful, now,  
Of faces that were lovely of old time,  
Lifts here again dim hands and hair and brow,  
In loveliness more fragile than a rhyme.

So that the listening night has somehow learned  
A way of prescient waiting through the dark,  
For half-forgotten loveliness returned, —

Too frail and dim for eyes like ours to mark  
More than a ghostly glimmer on the air,  
That once was lighted brow and hands and hair.

DAVID MORTON

#### HERMIT THRUSH

HARK, from the wood's melodious flute  
That first clear liquid note,  
Long sustained  
Of summer!  
You mean so much to me, shy hermit  
Of the woods,  
O messenger of joy!  
From out your speckled throat  
All music surely has its birth  
In that clear, crystal note  
Which bursts upon the ear,  
Clearly calling, "Joy! — I'm here!"  
Your first, full, rapturous note  
Is like the colour in the crystal  
When first the sun it catches,  
With sparkling notes that follow  
Dancing, in prismatic flashes.

First herald of the morning  
In that long, liquid note of joy,  
Buoyant, sportive, pealing,  
The last to sing the closing note at vespers,  
Plaintive, sweet, and full of depth  
And feeling.  
You fling your song out as a call,  
You sing that in this life there 's passion,  
Pain and suffering —  
But over all is joy!  
Joy!  
Joy!  
There 's joy enough for all!

MARIE TUDOR

#### A SUMMER DAY

WHAT a day of rapturous beauty!  
The land is all aglow with maddening sunlight —  
The glad sea-spray in joyous clamor breaks  
Upon the cold and unresponsive rocks,  
Then upward leaps towards heaven's kind blue  
Undaunted, in ecstasy of tumult and delight!  
The call of summer is in air and earth —  
All Nature throbs with passion and with power —  
And the soul of man 's enraptured with the hour!

SARAH METCALF PHIPPS

## ALOHA

I KNOW a little island  
Set in the summer sea,  
Wave-washed and green and mossy  
As green can be.

Great joys are in the offing;  
And always day and night,  
Putting into the harbor,  
Is some delight.

Around it sail great sorrows;  
So far it is from care  
That only fleets of laughter  
May anchor there.

And only strong fair faces  
Pass always to and fro;  
As in a place enchanted  
They come and go.

Once came a green sea-serpent,  
The island people say,  
And in their warmth of welcome  
Basked for a day:

Basked — and with venom sweetened,  
Fled from that holy ground,  
Dyeing the seas with envy  
For miles around:

With envy of the people  
Who worship lovely things,  
Such as in old were worshiped  
By queens and kings.

Stay, lovely little island,  
Still in the summer sea,  
Wave-washed and green and mossy  
As green can be!

WILLIAM GRIFFITH

### THE BEST FRIEND

Now shall I walk  
Or shall I ride?  
“Ride,” Pleasure said;  
“Walk,” Joy replied.

Now what shall I —  
Stay home or roam?  
“Roam,” Pleasure said;  
And Joy — “Stay home.”

Now shall I dance,  
Or sit for dreams?  
“Sit,” answers Joy;  
“Dance,” Pleasure screams.

Which of ye two  
Will kindest be?  
Pleasure laughed sweet,  
But Joy kissed me!

WILLIAM H. DAVIES

#### THE FALCONER OF GOD

I FLUNG my soul to the air like a falcon flying.  
I said, “Wait on, wait on, while I ride below!  
    I shall start a heron soon  
    In the marsh beneath the moon —  
A strange white heron rising with silver on its wings,  
    Rising and crying  
    Wordless, wondrous things;  
The secret of the stars, of the world’s heart-strings  
    The answer to their woe.  
Then stoop thou upon him, and grip and hold him so!”

My wild soul waited on as falcons hover.  
I beat the reedy fens as I trampled past.

I heard the mournful loon  
In the marsh beneath the moon.  
And then — with feathery thunder — the bird of my desire  
Broke from the cover  
Flashing silver fire.  
High up among the stars I saw his pinions spire.  
The pale clouds gazed aghast  
My falcon stoopt upon him, and gript and held him fast.

My soul dropt through the air — with heavenly plunder? —  
Leaving the dazzling bird my dreaming knew?

Nay! but a piteous freight,  
A dark and heavy weight  
Spoiled of silver plumage, its voice forever stilled, —  
All of the wonder  
Gone that ever filled  
My guise with glory. Oh, bird that I have killed,  
How brilliantly you flew  
Assassinate my rapturous vision when first I dreamed of you!

But I fling my soul on high with new endeavor,  
And I ride the world below with a joyful mind.

*I shall start a heron soon*  
*In the marsh beneath the moon —*  
*Wondrous silver heron its inner darkness fedges!*

I beat forever  
The fens and the sedges.

The pledge is still the same — for all disastrous pledges,  
All hopes resigned!  
My soul still flies above me for the quarry it shall find.

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT

LINES FROM "THE ROAMER"

Love is the bread that feeds the multitudes;  
Love is the healing of the hospitals;  
Love is the light that breaks through prison doors;  
Love knows not rich nor poor, nor good nor bad,  
But only the beloved, in every heart  
One and the same, the incorruptible  
Spirit divine, whose tabernacle is life.  
Love, more than hunger, feeds the soul's desire;  
Love more the spirit than the body heals;  
Love is a star unto the darkened mind;  
And they who truly are Love's servants leal,  
And follow him, undoubting, to the end,  
Beyond the bounds of human righteousness,  
Past Justice and past Mercy, find at last,  
Past Charity, past Pardon, Love enthroned,  
Lord of all hearts, incarnate in man's soul.

GEORGE EDWARD WOODBEREY

## COMPLETION

My heart has fed today.  
My heart, like hind at play,  
Has grazed in fields of love, and washed in streams  
Of quick, imperishable dreams.

In moth-white beauty shimmering,  
Lovely as birches in the moon glimmering,  
From coigns of sleep my eyes  
Saw dawn and love arise.

And like a bird at rest,  
Steady in a swinging nest,  
My heart at peace lay gloriously  
While wings of ecstasy  
Beat round me and above.

I am fulfilled of love.

EUNICE TIETJENS

## TO ONE I LOVE

To one I love --  
I have been all things beautiful.  
I am the stars, the light, the breath,  
The music of the world set forth for him;

And I am witchery, and even woe,  
Woe of a quality akin to joy!  
The thought of me is subtly intertwined  
With twilight and the wheeling swallows cry,  
With doorways dimly lit; and darkening fields;  
The long road's ending, and the lantern's gleam;  
With huddled roofs adream beneath the moon.  
For I am that by which he is reborn.  
The dearness of the heart by candle-light;  
The mystery wherein two spirits blend;  
I have the strange remoteness of the heavens  
And yet the patient nearness of the grass.

AMORY HARE

#### MORNING SONG

THERE'S a mellower light just over the hill,  
And somewhere a yellower daffodil,  
And honey, somewhere, that's sweeter still.

And some were meant to stay like a stone,  
Knowing the things they have always known,  
Sinking down deeper into their own.

But some must follow the wind and me,  
Who like to be starting and like to be free,  
Never so glad as we're going to be!

KARLE WILSON BAKER

## THE VALLEY'S SINGING DAY

THE sound of the closing door was all.  
You made no sound in the grass with your footfall,  
As far as you went from the door, which was not far;  
But had awakened under the morning star  
The first song bird that awakened all the rest.  
He could have slept but a moment more at best:  
Already determined dawn began to lay  
In place across a cloud the slender ray  
For prying beneath and forcing the lids of sight,  
And loosing the pent-up music of over night.  
But dawn was not to begin their "pearly-pearly"  
(By which they mean the rain is pearls so early  
Before it changes to diamonds in the sun),  
Neither was song that day to be self-begun.  
You had begun it, and if there needed proof —  
I was asleep still under the dripping roof,  
My window curtain hung over the sill to wet;  
But I should awake to confirm your story yet;  
I should be willing to say and help you to say  
That once you had opened the valley's singing day.

ROBERT FROST

## AFTER TWO YEARS

SHE is all so slight  
And tender and white  
As a May morning.  
She walks without hood  
At dusk. It is good  
To hear her sing.

It is God's will  
That I shall love her still  
As He loves Mary.  
And night and day  
I will go forth to pray  
That she love me.

She is as gold  
Lovely, and far more cold.  
Do thou pray with me,  
For if I win grace  
To kiss twice her face  
God has done well to me.

RICHARD ALDINGTON

## CLICK O' THE LATCH

The silence holds for it, taut and true,  
The young moon stays for it, wistful white;  
Winds that whimpered the sunset through  
    Sigh for it, low and light, —

Click o' the latch and he'll come home —  
A stir in the dusk at the little gate.  
Hush, my heart, — be still, my heart —  
    Surely it's sweet to wait!

The tall skies lean for it, listening —  
Never a star but lends an ear —  
The passionate porch-flowers stoop and cling —  
    Stilling their leaves to hear

Click o' the latch and him come home, —  
A step on the flags, a snatch of song,  
Hurry my heart, be swift, my heart, —  
    How did we wait so long!

NANCY BYRD TURNER

## LOVE'S ISLAND

(FROM THE JAPANESE OF DOKU-HO)

An island in an inland sea;  
    “Too small for me!” I sadly cried.  
And then espied

The night and the day have met on the road,  
Tremulous, O my Sweet;  
And all the twilight is faint with the prayer  
That thou and I should meet!

BENJAMIN R. C. LOW

#### DUSK AT SEA

To-NIGHT eternity alone is near:  
The sea, the sunset, and the darkening blue;  
Within their shelter is no space for fear,  
Only the wonder that such things are true.

The thought of you is like the dusk at sea —  
Space and wide freedom and old shores left far,  
The shelter of a lone immensity  
Sealed by the sunset and the evening star.

THOMAS S. JONES, JR.

#### A SPRIG OF ROSEMARY

I CANNOT see your face.  
When I think of you,  
It is your hands which I see.  
Your hands  
Sewing,  
Holding a book,

Resting for a moment on the sill of a window.  
My eyes keep always the sight of your hands,  
But my heart holds the sound of your voice,  
And the soft brightness which is your soul.

AMY LOWELL

#### HER WAY

You loved the hay in the meadow,  
Flowers at noon,  
The high cloud's long shadow,  
Honey of June,  
The flaming woodways tangled  
With Fall on the hill,  
The towering night star-spangled  
And winter-still.

And you loved firelit faces,  
The hearth, the home, —  
Your mind on golden traces,  
London or Rome, —  
On quaintly-colored spaces  
Where heavens glow  
With his quaint saints' embraces, —  
Angelico.

In cloister and highway  
(Gold of God's dust!)

And many an elfin byway  
    You put your trust,—  
A crock and a table,  
    Love's end of day,  
And light of a storied stable  
    Where kings must pray.

Somewhere there is a village  
    For you and me,  
Hayfield, hearth and tillage,—  
    Where can it be?  
Prayers when birds awake,  
    Daily bread,  
Toil for His sunlit sake  
    Who raised us dead.

With this in mind you moved  
    Through love and pain.  
Hard though the long road proved,  
    You turned again  
With a heart that knew its trust  
    Not ill-bestowed.  
With this you light the dust  
    That clouds my road.

WILLIAM ROSE BENÉT

## THE GIFT OF GOD

BLESSED with a joy that only she  
Of all alive shall ever know,  
She wears a proud humility  
For what it was that willed it so,—  
That her degree should be so great  
Among the favored of the Lord  
That she may scarcely bear the weight  
Of her bewildering reward.

As one apart, immune, alone,  
Or featured for the shining ones,  
And like to none that she has known  
Of other women's other sons,—  
The firm fruition of her need,  
He shines anointed; and he blurs  
Her vision, till it seems indeed  
A sacrilege to call him hers.

She fears a little for so much  
Of what is best, and hardly dares  
To think of him as one to touch  
With aches, indignities, and cares;  
She sees him rather at the goal,  
Still shining; and her dream foretells  
The proper shining of a soul  
Where nothing ordinary dwells.

Perchance a canvass of the town  
Would find him far from flags and shouts,  
And leave him only the renown  
Of many smiles and many doubts;  
Perchance the crude and common tongue  
Would havoc strangely with his worth;  
But she, with innocence unwrung,  
Would read his name around the earth.

And others, knowing how this youth  
Would shine, if love could make him great,  
When caught and tortured for the truth  
Would only writhe and hesitate;  
While she, arranging for his days  
What centuries could not fulfill,  
Transmutes him with her faith and praise,  
And has him shining where she will.

She crowns him with her gratefulness,  
And says again that life is good;  
And should the gift of God be less  
In him than in her motherhood,  
His fame, though vague, will not be small,  
As upward through her dream he fares,  
Half clouded with a crimson fall  
Of roses thrown on marble stairs.

EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON

## MOTHER-PRAYER

“**LORD**, make my loving a guard for them  
    Day and night,  
Let never pathway be hard for them;  
    Keep all bright!  
Let not harsh touch of a thorn for them  
    Wound their ease —  
All of the pain I have borne for them  
    Spare to these!”

*So I would pray for them,  
Kneeling to God  
Night and day for them.*

“Lord, let the pain life must bring to them  
    Make them strong,  
Keep their hearts white though grief cling to them  
    All life long,  
Let all the joys Thou dost keep from them  
    At Thy will  
Give to them power to reap from them  
    Courage still!”

*So I must ask for them,  
Leaving to God  
His own task for them.*

MARGARET WIDDEMER

## “I SING NO MORE”.

I SING no more the brook-song, the tree-song?

I sing no more the tune of the windy hills?

I have forgotten, perhaps, the storm-song, the sea-song?

How a red dawn dazzles, and how a blue noon thrills?

— Ah, but my songs! A little gay echo sings them.

A little gay face comes laughing, stealing my flush of flame.

I have forgotten no tunes, but the thrush or the thunder brings  
them

Perfect and undismayed, for the little gay lips to tame.

I go no more a-dancing and a-glittering?

I go no more in queer bright garments clad?

I have forgotten, perhaps, the dreams that the moon sets flittering,  
Silver and gold and pearl-plumed; delicate, moody, sad?

— Ah, but my dance! — A little gay shadow treads it,  
Green and azure and copper, a little shape leaps, bright-haired.

I have forgotten no dream, but the star or the sunrise sheds it,  
Utterly young and fearless, with tremulous hot heart bared.

Why should I sing? And why should I dream and desire?

Not one night will wait for my dream; not one day for my song.

I am the speechless wood that laughs in the keen young fire.

O little wayward fire! Burn gloriously! Burn long!

FANNIE STEARNS DAVIS

## QUANTITY AND QUALITY

THE poor have childher and to spare,  
But with the quality they're rare,  
Where money's scarce the childher's many,  
Where money's thick you'll scarce find any,  
Some wanted here, too many there —  
It's quare.

Now, if the rich and poor could share,  
There'd soon be childher everywhere;  
But God have pity on the mother  
That gives her child up to another;  
An' so you'll find a mansion bare,  
A cabin rich in all that's fair —  
It's quare.

W. M. LETTS

## THE CHILDHER

(AN IRISH MOTHER SPEAKS)

AH, sure, without the childher, now, I don't know what I'd do at all,  
'T would be the same old story, every day, an' nothing new at all!  
'T is thrue, they are a throuble, an' I'm often almost wild with them —  
But what about the times when I am just another child with them?

When all their fun an' frolic makes the very rafters ring again,  
An' I, with all my years, am led to join them when they sing  
again?

When Patsy (that's the eldest) — he that has the roguish glance  
with him —

He fairly drags me in to show the girls how I can dance with  
him?

When Mary (that's my second) plays the tunes of other days to  
me —

An' she not knowing half the things, poor child, the music says  
to me? —

When I can see around me every youthful face love-lit for me,  
An' feel that all their merriment's intended, every bit for me? —  
Ah, then, in spite of all the work, the worry and bewildherment,  
I'm thanking God He gave me this: to know what little childher  
meant!

Ah, sure without the childher 't is myself might take it aisier;  
But would I be much better off because I might be lazier?

My hand it might be whiter, an' I'd have more rings to wear on it,  
But would my heart be lighter if I had no mother-care on it?

An' tell me how I'd spend the day — I'm thinkin' 't would be  
weary, now,

If I could not be lookin' out for Patsy an' for Mary, now,  
Or some one or another of the little lives so dear to me,  
An' thinkin' are they safe an' sound? an' wishin' they were near  
to me;

An' kissin' them when they came in, an' layin' lovin' hold on  
them,  
An' askin' if they're wet, for fear they'd maybe have a cold on  
them.  
An' smilin' to see Michael draw each lovin' little one to him,  
An' laughin' when the youngest one, the toddler, tries to run to  
him.  
"T is thrue, the world is filled with care, we suffer every day  
from it,  
But, ah, the little childher, sure, they lure our hearts away  
from it!

The house that has the childher is the house that has the joy in it;  
To me 't is only home that has a girleen or a boy in it;  
An' every one that's added only makes the place the cheerier;  
If childher are the gifts of God, the more He sends the merrier.  
Sure, every little one I've had gave something to my bliss the  
more,  
An' every little baby face my lips were drawn to kiss the more,  
An' though I know the throuble an' the thrial an' the care they  
are,  
An' though I know how often wild, how wayward an' how quare  
they are,  
An' though 't is many a night I've watched beside the little beds  
of them,  
An' held their little hands an' cooled the fevered little heads of  
them;

An' though I know the surly moods that fall upon the best of  
them —

Can *one* who is unkind outweigh the love of all the rest of them?  
No, no, the throuble that I've had, through them I'll never rue  
at all,

An' sure, without the childher, now, I don't know what I'd do  
at all!

DENIS A. McCARTHY

### NIGHT MAGIC

(A LIE-AWAKE SONG)

This apples falling from the tree  
    Make such a heavy bump at night  
I always am surprised to see  
    They are so little, when it's light;

And all the dark just sings and sings  
    So loud, I cannot see at all  
How frogs and crickets and such things  
    That make the noise, can be so small.

Then my own room looks larger, too —  
    Corners so dark and far away —  
I wonder if things really do  
    Grow up at night and shrink by day?

For I dream sometimes, just as clear,  
I'm bigger than the biggest men —  
Then mother says, "Wake up, my dear!"  
And I'm a little boy again.

AMELIA JOSEPHINE BURR

#### THE LOCOMOTIVE TO THE LITTLE BOY

Boy, whose little, confiding hand  
Your father holds, why do you stand  
Staring in wonderment at me, —  
Poor thing of iron that I be?

Your unsophisticated eyes  
Are full of beautiful surprise;  
And oh, how wonderful you are,  
You little, golden morning-star!

Poor thing of iron that I be,  
A mortal man imagined me;  
But you — you drop of morning dew —  
God and His heaven are globed in you.

BENJAMIN R. C. LOW

## THE COBBLER IN WILLOW STREET

UNLESS you knew just where to look  
You could n't find it out of a book, —  
Willow Street . . . close-walled, and still,  
Short and shadowed in every nook  
And hour as day goes up the hill.

The dark shapes slant to west at nine  
And creep at one up to a line  
Measuring eastern walls again,  
And close the gloried morning vine  
That they have touched enough to stain.

The cobbler's house is half the height  
The pigeons measure in a flight  
From bottom of the hill to top . . .  
And where his one doorstep is white  
The cobbler sings and keeps his shop.

Mornings, he makes a bluebird tune  
For dreams and things that go too soon,  
And in a song he's half forgot  
Of Willow Street, in afternoon,  
He sings of people who are not . . .

Of people who no longer care  
About the houses in the square

Above the street and at its end,  
Or do not see the willow bare  
When rain drips from the boughs and bend.

He hums his quiet song about  
The houses with their shutters out  
Or folded in . . . of men who talked  
Of plans and faith and hope and doubt,  
And those that whispered while they walked . . .

Where houses kneel around the church  
The pigeons flutter from their perch  
Down to the narrow spotless street  
To strut and stand and flash and lurch,  
Crowding about the cobbler's feet.

Some day the cobbler's sound will beat —  
When evening threnody is sweet  
With old bells shaking sprays of chimes —  
A song of us and Willow Street,  
Tapping a heel all out of time. . . .

GEORGE O'NEIL

#### HOLD FAST YOUR DREAMS

Hold fast your dreams!  
Within your heart  
Keep one, still, secret spot  
Where dreams may go,

And sheltered so,  
May thrive and grow —  
Where doubt and fear are not.  
O, keep a place apart,  
Within your heart,  
For little dreams to go!

Think still of lovely things that are not true.  
Let wish and magic work at will in you.  
Be sometimes blind to sorrow. Make believe!  
Forget the calm that lies  
In disillusioned eyes.  
Though we all know that we must die,  
Yet you and I  
May walk like gods and be  
Even now at home in immortality!

We see so many ugly things —  
Deceits and wrongs and quarrelings;  
We know, alas! we know  
How quickly fade  
The color in the west,  
The bloom upon the flower,  
The bloom upon the breast  
And youth's blind hour.  
Yet, keep within your heart  
A place apart

Where little dreams may go,  
May thrive and grow.  
Hold fast — hold fast your dreams!

LOUISE DRISCOLL

### THE LONESOME WAVE

THERE is an island  
In the middle of my heart,  
And all day comes lapping on the shore  
A long silver wave.  
It is the lonesome wave;  
I cannot see the other side of it.  
It will never go away  
Until it meets the glad gold wave  
Of happiness!

Wandering over the monstrous rocks,  
Looking into the caves,  
I see my island dark, all cold,  
Until the gold wave sweeps in  
From a sea deep blue,  
And flings itself on the beach.  
Oh, it is joy, then!  
No more whispers like sorrow,  
No more silvery lonesome lapping of the long wave. . . .

HILDA CONKLING  
*(Seven years old)*

## ROMANY GOLD

THERE's a crackle of brown on the leaf's crisp edge  
And the goldenrod blooms have begun to feather.  
We're two jolly vagabonds under a hedge  
By the dusty road together.

Could an emperor boast such a house as ours,  
The sky for a roof and for couch the clover?  
Does he sleep as well under silken flowers  
As we, when the day is over?

He sits at ease at his table fine  
With the richest of meat and drink before him.  
I eat my crust with your hand in mine,  
And your eyes are cups of a stronger wine  
Than any his steward can pour him.

What if the autumn days grow cold?  
Under one cloak we can brave the weather.  
A comrade's troth is the Romany gold,  
And we're taking the road together.

AMELIA JOSEPHINE BURR

## THE LITTLE TAVERN

I'LL keep a little tavern  
Below the high hill's crest,  
Wherein all gray-eyed people  
May set them down and rest.

There shall be plates a-plenty,  
And mugs to melt the chill  
Of all the gray-eyed people  
Who happen up the hill.

There sound will sleep the traveler  
And dream his journey's end,  
But I will rouse at midnight  
The falling fire to tend.

Aye, 't is a curious fancy —  
But all the good I know  
Was taught me out of two gray eyes  
A long time ago.

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

#### SACRED IDLENESS

WORK? Not to-day! Ah! no — that were to do  
The gracious face of heaven a surly wrong,  
Bright day so manifestly made for song,  
And sweep of freedom's wings into the blue.  
Divinely idle, rather let us lie,  
And watch the lordly unindustrious sky  
Nor trail the smoke of little busy cares  
Across its calm — Work? Not to-day! not I!

Work? Why, another year . . . one never knows  
But this the flowering last of all our years;  
Which of us can be sure of next year's rose?  
And I, that have so loved them all my days,  
Not yet have learned the names of half the flowers,  
Nor half enough have listened to the birds.

Nay! while the marvel of the May is ours,  
Earth's book of lovely hieroglyphic words  
Let's read together, each green letter spell,  
And each illuminated miracle,  
Decking the mystic text with blue and gold —  
That Book of Beauty where all Truth is told.

Let's watch the dogwood, holding silver trays  
Of blossom out across the woodland ways,  
Whiter than breast of any mortal girl's;  
And hark! yon bird flinging its song like pearls,  
Sad as all lovely things fore-doomed to die —  
Work? Not to-day! Ah! no — not you, not I.

RICHARD LE GALLIENNE

#### THE TREE-TOP ROAD

BEYOND the little window  
    Of my dull House of Care  
One road is always beckoning  
    When days are gray and bare:

And then I leave the dusty road  
The struggle and the load —  
I pin my wings upon my feet  
And take the Tree-top Road!

Life's sweetest joys are hidden  
In unsubstantial things;  
An April rain, a fragrance,  
A vision of blue wings:  
And what are memory and hope  
But dreams? And yet the bread  
On which these little lives of ours  
Are fed and comforted!

Without imagination  
The soul becomes a clod,  
Missing the trail of beauty  
Losing the way to God.  
And I have built a templed-stair  
Out of a lilac bloom  
And climbed to heaven with purple pomp  
And censers of perfume!

Philosophers and sages  
Seeking to find out God  
With puzzling chart and compass  
And strange divining rod,

I think He must come down to see  
His orchards bloom in May,—  
O souls of ours, put on your wings  
And try the Tree-top Way!

I have no feud with Labor,  
But at the Gates of June  
I fling away my dusty pack  
And join in Youth's glad tune.  
And just forgetting for awhile  
That I am worn and gray  
Go sailing off with Peter Pan  
Along the Tree-top Way!

MAY RILEY SMITH

#### THE BEST ROAD OF ALL

I LIKE a road that leads away to prospects white and fair,  
A road that is an ordered road, like a nun's evening prayer;  
But, best of all, I love a road that leads to God knows where.

You come upon it suddenly — you cannot seek it out;  
It's like a secret still unheard and never noised about;  
But when you see it, gone at once is every lurking doubt.

It winds beside some rushing stream where aspens lightly quiver  
It follows many a broken field by many a shining river;  
It seems to lead you on and on, forever and forever!

You tramp along its dusty way, beneath its shadowy trees,  
And hear beside you chattering birds or happy booming bees,  
And all around you golden sounds, the green leaves' litanies.

And here's a hedge, and there's a cot; and then — strange,  
sudden turns;  
A dip, a rise, a little glimpse where the red sunset burns;  
A bit of sky at eveningtime, the scent of hidden ferns.

A winding road, a loitering road, a finger-mark of God  
Traced when the Maker of the world leaned over ways untrod.  
See! Here He smiled His glowing smile, and lo, the goldenrod!

I like a road that wanders straight; the King's highway is fair,  
And lovely are the sheltered lanes that take you here and there;  
But, best of all, I love a road that leads to God knows where.

CHARLES HANSON TOWNE

### THE ROAD'S END

SOMETIMES the road was a twisted riddle  
Where one might stray for a crooked mile,  
But O, she danced to the pipes and fiddle  
Most of the while, most of the while.

Sometimes the wind and the rain together  
Blurred the hill that she needs must climb,

But O, she tripped it in primrose weather  
Most of the time, most of the time.

Who may say that the journey tried her?  
Never a Romany went as gay,  
Seeing that true love walked beside her  
All of the way, all of the way.

THEODOSIA GARRISON

#### THE AIR

The air shone with light and rang with music  
And carried memories of flowers to me,  
Where I lay, resting a weary head and shoulders  
Hard against the sod, under a tree.

The air moved gently, joyfully, over, under,  
With delicate singing soothing my unrest,  
While I lay there, too weary even to murmur,  
Too spent to answer life, even with a jest.

The air was lovely. There I slept and wakened,  
And still there was the miracle of the air;  
Rested, I flung my arms apart in worship  
To think of this glory moving everywhere.

MARGUERITE WILKINSON

## THE CELL

WHEN from the hush of this cool wood  
I go, Lord, to the noisy mart,  
Give me among the multitude,  
I pray, a lonely heart.

Yes, build in me a secret cell  
Where quietness shall be a song:  
In that green solitude I'll dwell,  
And praise Thee all day long.

GEORGE ROSTREVOR

## "SHE BECAME WHAT SHE BEHELD"

BEE in the lavender  
Searching for provender,  
If I were small  
And greedy like thee,  
How slender and tall  
Would the lavender be.

High in the trees  
I scramble and cling,  
Softly the breeze  
Sets me a-swing.

Deep in delight  
I bury my nose,

Holding on tight  
With fingers and toes.

Honey and wind  
And lavender blue  
Here do I find  
All the day through —  
Bee in the lavender  
Searching for provender!

MARGARET CECILIA FURSE

#### TELL ALL THE WORLD

TELL all the world that summer's here again  
With song and joy; tell them, that they may know  
How, on the hillside, in the shining fields  
New clumps of violets and daisies grow.

Tell all the world that summer's here again,  
That white clouds voyage through a sky so still  
With blue tranquillity, it seems to hang  
One windless tapestry, from hill to hill.

Tell all the world that summer's here again:  
Folk go about so solemnly and slow,  
Walking each one his grooved and ordered way —  
I fear that, otherwise they will not know!

HARRY KEMP

## A B C'S IN GREEN

THE trees are God's great alphabet:  
With them He writes in shining green  
Across the world His thoughts serene.

He scribbles poems against the sky  
With a gay, leafy lettering,  
For us and for our bettering.

The wind pulls softly at His page,  
And every star and bird  
Repeats in dutiful delight His word,  
And every blade of grass  
Flutters to class.

Like a slow child that does not heed,  
I stand at summer's knees,  
And from the primer of the wood  
I spell that life and love are good,  
I learn to read.

LEONORA SPEYER

## WEEK-END

MORNING! Wake up! Awaken! All the boughs  
Are rippling on the air across the green.  
The youngest birds are singing to the house.  
Blood of the world! — and is the country clean?

Disturb the precinct. Cool it with a shout.  
Sing as you trundle down to light the fire.  
Turn the encumbering shadows tumbling out,  
And fill the chambers with a new desire.  
Life is no good, unless the morning brings  
White happiness and quick delight of day.  
These half-inanimate domestic things  
Must all be useful, or must go away.  
Coffee, be fragrant. Porridge in my plate,  
Increase the vigour to fulfil my fate.

HAROLD MONRO

### THE TRYST

'LONG about dusk I'd see him go  
Almost a-runnin' through the snow  
Bound for the marsh, like a feller who's late  
Meetin' some girl, you know, — keepin' a "date."  
"Jest like them dudes," thinks I, "to roam  
With girls in the marsh, and their wives to home!"

So, one fine day, I on with my hood  
And foller'd his tracks to the edge o' the wood  
Where the marsh begins, to see who it was  
Meetin' my neighbor's man, — because  
I liked Mis' Joyce, — and she oughter know  
O' the goin's-on out there in the snow!

Well, what do you s'pose I saw? — Instead er  
A girl, there wa'n't nothin' but common salt meader,  
And him on the bridge pacin' up and down  
Watchin' the grasses float and drown  
In the flood o' the tide, and the cakes of ice  
Swim up westward. He looked so nice,  
And pleased and content, it seemed like he  
Was findin' himself rare company;  
And never once did he turn his head  
From the west, to look for a skirt instead.

I sneaked back home by the pasture lane,  
And studied and puzzled and addled my brain  
To guess why he hurried so, only to stand  
And gape at the west with his hat in his hand.

Next mornin' says I to my neighbor: "Say,  
Why does your man allus hurry that way  
Past my house, the end of the day?"  
Says she: "To look at the sunset, dear,  
Out where there's nothing to interfere."  
Says I: "Now ain't you city folks queer!  
What's in a sunset for to see?"  
"Look for yourself, my dear," says she.

So late that day, I thought for to look  
Out o' the winder near where I cook.

The sky was a nice red birthday cake  
Spattered with candles.

Mercy's sake!  
I dropped the cutter; I dropped the dough,  
I stood there gapin' outdoors as though  
One o' them fairy tales was true,  
And I was a princess with nothin' to do  
But watch a girl sewin' with silver thread  
On pink satin curtains to hang 'round my head.

I hurried across and opened the door;  
Never seed nothin' so purty afore!  
Then, under my eyes, things turned to a dome  
O' melting gold, like a honey-comb.  
Some bee must 'a' come from that fairy hive  
And stung me, and made me feel all alive. . . .

Funny what tricks yer eyes will play  
If any one happens to show 'em the way!

ROBERT HAVEN SCHAUFFLER

#### REVELATION

WALKING these long, late twilights of the Spring,  
Where all the fret of life seems nothing worth,  
And grief, itself, a half-forgotten thing,  
Less keen than these cool odours of the earth, —

I sometimes think we find the secret gate  
That gives on gardens of enchanted light,  
Restoring glories that we lost of late,  
To quiet wisdom and more certain sight.

A holier mood will haunt our stubborn will,  
Till we shall see revealments through the grass,  
And stop, abashed, before a daffodil,  
A shining weed, a stone on ways we pass, —  
Stand with bared head before the evening star,  
And know these holy things for what they are.

DAVID MORTON

#### THRIFT

No beauty beauty overthrows,  
But every joy its season knows,  
And all enchanted hours prepare  
Enchantment for to-morrow's wear.

Who in the just society  
That walks with him this hour can see  
But shadows of another bliss,  
Loses both that delight and this.

Grieve not the parting day, for soon  
The nightingales will sing the moon

Climbing the track that now the sun  
Leaves when the songs of day are done.

And grieve not when her beauty fails,  
And silence keeps the nightingales,  
For that eclipse again will bring  
The sun with all his birds to sing.

JOHN DRINKWATER

#### COUNTERSIGN

Out in the dark-night long  
I heard the Pine Tree's song  
Make secret harmonies  
For frozen earth and skies —

And in the first wan light  
I watched a grey gull's flight  
Toward morning and the sea:  
These things did counsel me

To find for Doubt a wing:  
To teach Despair to sing:  
To make Faith's Countersign  
A grey Gull and a Pine!

ARTHUR KETCHUM

### SEA-GULL SONG

My thoughts are mighty sea-gulls,  
Shining out to sea,  
As white and strong as sea-gulls,  
As avid of the sea.

They rest upon the green waves,  
They mount up, one by one.

My thoughts are lordly sea-gulls,  
Lovely in the sun.

My body stays in bondage  
Upon the shore, I know;  
But lazily float the sea-gulls  
Like great flakes of snow.

Lazily float the sea-gulls,  
Drifting in the blue,  
My thoughts are bright as sea-gulls,  
Their flight as true.

They scorn the towns, the shoreline;  
Their home is in the sky;  
They joy to breast the tempest,  
My thoughts, more strong than I.  
Mean household tasks may hold me  
And four walls conquer me,  
But my thoughts are sea-gulls  
Lifting out to sea.

MARY CAROLYN DAVIES

## THE WHOLE DUTY OF BERKSHIRE BROOKS

To build the trout a crystal stair;  
To comb the hillside's thick green hair;  
To water jewel-weed and rushes;  
To teach first notes to baby thrushes;  
To flavor raspberry and apple  
And make a whirling pool to dapple  
With scattered gold of late October;  
To urge wise laughter on the sober  
And lend a dream to those who laugh;  
To chant the beetle's epitaph;  
To mirror the blue dragonfly,  
Frail air-plane of a slender sky;  
Over the stones to lull and leap  
Herding the bubbles like white sheep;  
The claims of worry to deny,  
And whisper sorrow into sleep!

GRACE HAZARD CONKLING

## ON THE VERANDAH

LARKSPUR; windy July;  
Trees riding up from the southward,  
Green waves frozen before they fell,  
Shattered with grey rifts of light:

Flickering in amber sunbeams,  
Glinting with gold as the sunset passed,  
We sat together and saw them change,  
And in our hearts was peace.

In calm and opulent terraces  
The sky unrolled ribbed cloud for us;  
Marble-veined azure, peacefully walled.  
Two and two went the grave white angels  
Smiling and sometimes speaking to us:  
The lower ones brooding in shadow,  
The upper ones romping in sunlight  
Where like white ladders the light ran up  
From the cellars to upper balconies,  
Where with wind-blown daisies frail gardens bloomed  
in mid-air.

We watched them from the verandah,  
Sitting together, you holding my hand;  
The wind flapped the heavy bough-curtains,  
And all our thoughts were at rest.  
We were not troubled with anything,  
We knew that this day was made for us,  
We knew that new days would come in time,  
The future and the past were now one.

Long we watched dark swallows hovering  
Swift up the wind-waves of the sky,

Fluttering, soaring, and calling,  
Wheeling like well-ordered oarsmen.  
They passed through the sunpool washing the trees,  
Rippling with warm heat over the world,  
Caressing and changing the final faint clouds,  
Before they receded to rest.

Evening bells sounded hollow, forlorn,  
Out of a valley wreathed in white mist;  
It was the time you must quit my side.  
You went without pain or regret.  
Such a perfect understanding ruled over our hearts,  
That, parting, I felt that you still held my hand;  
For all of my life was known by you  
In such serene comprehensive surrender,  
That I slept every night with no false dreams to mar  
my sleep.

JOHN GOULD FLETCHER

## ONE HOUR

### I

SNATCHED from the greedy hand of ruthless Time,  
We saved one hour of golden afternoon.  
Oh! Love, it seemed our hearts, as one, did chime  
In subtle symphony; and so in tune  
Our spirits were, that speech was hardly part  
Of the deep language of the happy heart.

**II**

The sunset lingered in the misty sky,  
Till dim cloud shadows in the water grew,  
And lilting reed-birds from the rushes, by  
The gliding stream, across our vision flew,  
With low, sweet cries, as though to thrill the ear  
With the close thought that Nature was so near.

**III**

We seemed in unison with bird and flower,  
At one with all the soft and sensuous light;  
I thought of Danaë in her golden shower  
And felt the God had claimed me as his right —  
The terrible, strong God whom men call Love,  
Who rules “the Earth below, the Heavens above!”

**IV**

And yet, in that sweet hour, the Soul was King!  
And held the heart in pure and potent sway, —  
And we can ever to that memory bring  
The grateful knowledge that our perfect day,  
With all its essence of a mortal union,  
Was touched with high and Heavenly communion.

**CORINNE DOUGLAS ROBINSON**

## FRIENDS

I HAVE a friend whose stillness rests me so  
His heart must know  
How closely we together, silent, grow.

I have a friend whose brilliancy inspires  
And rarely tires  
When we two warm our spirits at his fires.

I have a friend whose charity delights  
In others' rights.  
We two sit talking often late of nights.

I have a friend whose discipline I need;  
We have agreed  
That neither from this schooling shall be freed.

I have a friend whose calmness some mistake.  
But we two make  
Of suffering more than just its grief and ache.

I have so many friends — each one fulfills  
Just what God wills.  
For He through them His best in me instills.

And so twice fortunate am I to find  
Friends great and kind —  
Each one himself, yet part of God's own mind.

VLYN JOHNSON

## SAINTE JEANNE OF FRANCE

SAINTE JEANNE went harvesting in France,  
But ah! what found she there?  
The little streams were running red,  
And the torn fields were bare;  
And all about the ruined towers  
Where once her king was crowned,  
The hurtling plows of war and death  
Had scored the desolate ground.

Sainte Jeanne turned to the hearts of men  
That harvest might not fail;  
Her sword was girt upon her thigh,  
Her dress was silvern mail;  
And all the war-worn ranks were glad  
To feel her presence shine;  
Her smile was like the mellow sun  
Along that weary line.

She gave her silence to their lips,  
Her visions to their eyes,  
And the quick glory of her sword  
She lent to their emprise;  
The shadow of her gentle hand  
Touched Belgium's burning cross,  
And set the seal of power and praise  
On agony and loss.

Sainte Jeanne went harvesting in France,  
And oh! what found she there?  
The brave seed of her scattering  
In fruitage everywhere;  
And where her strong and tender heart  
Was broken in the flame,  
She found the very heart of France  
Had flowered in her name.

MARIAN COUTHOUY SMITH

### THE PLOUGHMAN

God will not let my field lie fallow.

The ploughshare is sharp, the feet of his oxen are heavy;  
They hurt.  
But I cannot stay God from His ploughing,  
I, the lord of the field.  
While I stand waiting,  
His shoulders loom upon me from the mist,  
He has gone past me down the furrow, shouting a song.

(I had said, it shall rest for a season.  
The larks had built in the grass. . . .)

He will not let my field lie fallow.

KAELE WILSON BAKER

## **THANKSGIVING**

**THE roar of the world is in my ears.**

    Thank God for the roar of the world!

**Thank God for the mighty tide of fears**

    Against me always hurled!

**Thank God for the bitter and ceaseless strife,**

    And the sting of His chastening rod!

**Thank God for the stress and the pain of life,**

    And Oh, thank God for God!

**JOYCE KILMER**

## **THANKS FROM EARTH TO HEAVEN**

God pours for me His draught divine, —

Moonlight, which is the poet's wine,

He has made this perfect night

For my wonder and delight.

What is it He would declare

In this beauty everywhere —

What dearest thought of His is heard

In the moonlight's secret word?

To the human, the Supreme

Poet speaks in wind and stream,

Tenderly He does express  
His meaning in each loveliness.

Simply does He speak and clear,  
As man to man, His message dear —  
Aye — and well enough He knows  
Who shall understand His rose!

Night is but His parable  
Secretly where He would tell,  
As to an intimate of His,  
The mystery of all that is;

Nor humblest, nor most exquisite  
Detail or phrase does He omit  
From His great poem, confident  
It shall be noted what He meant.

And cunningly doth still devise  
New Aprils for His poet's eyes  
For whose joy all things were wrought,  
That without him were as nought.

Holy Poet, I have heard  
Thy lost music, Thy least word;  
Not Thy beauty's tiniest part  
Has escaped this loving heart!

While the great world goes its way  
I watch in wonder all the day,  
All the night my spirit sings  
For the loveliness of things.

But for lonely men like me  
It were wasted utterly  
All this beauty, vainly spent, —  
Unavailing lavishment.

Little cricket, never fear,  
There is one who waits to hear —  
Nor is there loveliness so shy  
It shall escape a poet's eye.

For the world enough it were  
To have a useful earth and bare,  
But for poets it is made  
All in loveliness arrayed.

For his eye the little moth  
Wears her coat of colored cloth,  
And to please his ear the deep  
Ocean murmurs in her sleep.

Rustle gently in the breeze  
For his delight the poplar trees,  
And in the song within his head  
The thanks from earth to heaven is said.

JOHN HALL WHEELOCK

## THE POET

SUN made the lily white,  
The glory of the flowery earth;  
Sun made the swan, which is  
The lily of a life white-winged;  
The eagle, whom he lures  
Spell-bound to his great heights;  
And the gold shimmer of the moon,  
The lovers' loving comrade.  
And then he dreamed a creature fuller  
Of lilies, eagles, swans, and shimmers,  
And made the poet. He  
Alone beholds Thee face to face,  
O God; and he alone,  
Reaching into Thy heart, reveals  
To us Thy mysteries.

KOSTES PALAMAS

(Translated by Aristides E. Phourtrides)

## “TELL ME, WHAT IS POETRY—”

TELL me, what is poetry —  
Wind in the pines along the sea,  
Wind in the frost-browned lanes of sedge,  
Lying close to the sand's white edge;

Song of the waves and the muttering roar  
Of breakers lashing a wintry shore,  
Tinkling sounds where waters slip  
Through blue sea caves, drip by drip.

Tell me, what is poetry —  
The earth's unceasing melody;  
Dawn song, night song, birds awhir,  
Fields where the bee is worshiper;  
Drowsy drone of the summer rain,  
Chirruping calls from ripening grain,  
Cicada, cricket, shrilling low;  
Nature's music in ebb and flow.

Tell me, what is poetry —  
The heart's undying ecstasy,  
Songs of our faith, our hopes, our tears,  
Songs of the joys of passing years,  
Laughter of children, glory of spring,  
Tenderness for each blind dumb thing;  
Praise when we bend 'neath the chastening rod;  
Music that leads us up to God.

JEANNE ROBERT FOSTER

#### THE LISTENER

ONCE, ere the silver, sprinkled heavens were hung in Space, there  
lived a Poet —  
Alone, unspeaking and unspoken to, amidst a universal muteness.

One eternal moment his heart beat and he wished an Other, who  
might listen to his voice.

He spake; and thus was born Vak, Being of perfect beauty.

And the Poet opened his eyes and beheld Vak, the Gracious One,  
sweetly standing before the ocean of stillness, and he  
blessed her;

And from his blessing-word were born three sons — Truth,  
Right, and Immortality.

And Vak smiled with her eyes and from her smile were born three  
lovely daughters — Dawn, Day, and Twilight.

The three sons sing in the heavens, in mid-space, and on earth,  
And the three fair daughters light the lamp in the three same  
spheres.

But Vak lives ever in the Poet's heart, listening to the voice of  
his soul.

SRI ĀNANDA ĀCHĀRYA

#### “ROSES ARE BEAUTY”

Roses are beauty, but I never see  
Those blood drops from the burning heart of June  
Glowing like thought upon the living tree,  
Without a pity that they die so soon,  
Die into petals, like those roses old,  
Those women, who were summer in men's hearts  
Before the smile upon the Sphinx was cold,  
Or sand had hid the Syrian and his arts.

O myriad dust of beauty that lies thick  
Under our feet that not a single grain  
But stirred and moved in beauty and was quick  
For one brief moon and died nor lived again;  
But when the moon rose lay upon the grass  
Pasture to living beauty, life that was.

I never see the red rose crown the year,  
Nor feel the young grass underneath my tread,  
Without the thought "This living beauty here  
Is earth's remembrance of a beauty dead.  
Surely where all this glory is displayed  
Love has been quick, like fire, to high ends;  
Here, in this grass, an altar has been made  
For some white joy, some sacrifice of friends;  
Here, where I stand, some leap of human brains  
Has touched immortal things and left its trace,  
The earth is happy here, the gleam remains;  
Beauty is here, the spirit of the place,  
I touch the faith which nothing can destroy,  
The earth, the living church of ancient joy."

JOHN MASEFIELD

### THE HUMMINGBIRD

The sunlight speaks, and its voice is a bird:  
It glimmers half-guessed, half-seen, half-heard,  
Above the flowerbed, over the lawn . . .  
A flashing dip, and it is gone,  
And all it lends to the eye is this —  
A sunbeam giving the air a kiss.

HARRY KEMP

### WHAT IF WE MADE OUR SENSES SO ASTUTE”

WHAT if we made our senses so astute,  
Our minds so quick, our hearing so acute,  
That we could hear  
The infinitesimal sound  
That seeds must make in falling to the ground  
At turning of the year?  
What if we heard  
The breathing of a bird,  
The tapping of the black ant's little feet,  
The brown snail tracing out a silver street?  
Perhaps more kind, and so more swiftly wise,  
We'd apprehend tears welling in the eyes  
We love the most, and so could speak the word

To dry, or send them falling through a smile,  
In just a little while.

I think all tears that fell at happy times  
Might make a little patterning sound of chimes.

AMORY HARE

### THE COIN

INTO my heart's treasury  
I slipped a coin  
That time cannot take  
Nor a thief purloin, —  
Oh better than the minting  
Of a gold-crowned king  
Is the safe-kept memory  
Of a lovely thing.

SARA THASDALE

### "THE MIRROR OF ALL AGES ARE THE EYES"

THE mirror of all ages are the eyes  
Of some remembering god, wherein are sealed  
The beauties of the world, the April field,  
Young faces, blowing hair, and autumn skies.  
The mirrors of the world shall break, and yield  
To life again what never really dies;  
The forms and colours of earth's pageantries,  
Unwithered and undimmed, shall be revealed.

And in that moment silence shall unfold  
Forgotten songs that she has held interred,  
The ocean rising on the shores of gold,  
Flecked with white laughter and love's lyric word;  
All happy music that the world has heard;  
All beauty that eternal eyes behold.

ROBERT HILLYER

### WINDOWS

I LOOKED through others' windows  
On an enchanted earth,  
But out of my own window —  
Solitude and dearth.

And yet there is a mystery  
I cannot understand —  
That others through my window  
See an enchanted land.

JESSIE B. RITTENHOUSE

### AFTERNOON

SOME one is coming to call.

Up the red brick path between daffodils dancing  
I see white ruffles that blow:  
A parasol, dipping against the sun.  
It is some one stout, and warm in her new white gloves.

My old green apron is smudged with the garden-mould.  
My hands are the hands of a peasant-woman. My hair  
Comes tumbling down into my eyes.

I wish I could lie down flat like a child  
And hide in the grass, while she rings and rings,  
And sticks her card under the door with a sigh,  
And puffs away down the path.  
I wish — but the parasol bobs,  
And she bobs like a mandarin's lady,  
Smiling and bridling and beckoning.

If I were a daffodil, in an apron of green and gold —  
But there she stands on the path,  
And her gloves are so new they squeak with newness and  
stoutness,  
And I know she will talk of the weather and stay an hour —

If I were a daffodil —  
Or a little cool blinking bug  
Down in the daffodil leaves —

FANNIE STEARNS DAVIS

#### THE GREAT MAN

I CANNOT always feel his greatness.  
Sometimes he walks beside me, step by step,  
And paces slowly in the ways —  
The simple, wingless ways

That my thought treads. He gossips with me then  
And finds it good;  
Not as an eagle might, his great wings folded, be content  
To walk a little, knowing it his choice,  
But as a simple man,  
My friend.  
And I forgot.

Then suddenly a call floats down  
From the clear airy spaces,  
The great, keen lonely heights of being.  
Then he who was my comrade hears the call  
And rises from my side, and soars,  
Deep-chanting to the heights.  
Then I remember.  
And my upward gaze goes with him, and I see  
Far off against the sky  
The glint of golden sunlight on his wings.

EUNICE TIETJENS

#### A WOMAN

SHE has an understanding with the years;  
For always in her eyes there was light  
As though she kept a secret none might guess —  
Some confidence that Time had made her heart.

So calmly did she bear the weight of pain,  
With such serenity accept the joy,  
It seemed she had a mother love for life,  
And all the days were children at her breast.

SCUDDER MIDDLETON

#### THE MOTHER IN THE HOUSE

For such as you, I do believe,  
Spirits their softest carpets weave,  
And spread them out with gracious hand  
Wherever you walk, wherever you stand.

For such as you, of scent and dew  
Spirits their rarest nectar brew,  
And where you sit and where you sup  
Pour beauty's elixir in your cup.

For all day long, like other folk,  
You bear the burden, wear the yoke,  
And yet when I look in your eyes at eve  
You are lovelier than ever, I do believe.

HERMANN HAGEDORN

## IN THE HOSPITAL

BECAUSE on the branch that is tapping my pane  
A sun-wakened leaf-bud, uncurled,  
Is bursting its rusty brown sheathing in twain;  
I know there is Spring in the world.

Because through the sky-patch whose azure and white  
My window frames all the day long  
A yellow-bird dips in a billow of flight,  
I know there is Song.

Because even here in this Mansion of Woe  
Where creep the dull hours, leaden-shod,  
Compassion and Tenderness aid me, I know  
There is God.

ARTHUR GUITERMAN

## HOPE'S SONG

SILENT is the dark  
Before the sun-beams come,  
Yet if it were not for the lark,  
The dawn would be as dumb,  
  
And thus my soul would be  
As dark and still as night,  
If 't were not for the minstrelsy  
Of Hope that sings of Light.

FRANCIS CARLIN

## DE GLORY ROAD

O DE Glory Road! O de Glory Road!  
I'm gwine ter drap mah load upon de Glory Road.

I lay on mah bed untell one erclock,  
An' de Lawd come callin' all His faithful flock.  
An' He call "Whoo-ee!", an' He call "Whoo-ee!"  
An' I knowed dat de Sabior wuz ercallin' me.  
An' He call "Whoo-ee!", an' He call "Whoo-ee!",  
An' I cry, "Massa Jesus, is you callin' me?"  
An' He call "Whoo-ee!", an' He call "Whoo-ee!",  
An' I riz up f'um mah pallet, an' I cry, "Hyahs me!"

De Lawd sez, "Niggah, ain' I call yer thrice  
Ter ride erlong behin' me up ter Paradise,  
On de Glory Road, on de Glory Road?"  
An' I clime up ter de saddle, an' I jined de load!

De hawse he wuz longer dan a thousan' mile';  
His tail went lashin', an' his hoofs wuz wil';  
His mane wuz flamin', an' his eyes wuz moons,  
An' his mouth kep' singin' Halleluyah tunes!

De Lawd sez, "Niggah, why 'n' cher look erroun'?"  
An' dar we wuz flyin' over risin' groun'.  
Powerful hills, an' mountains too,  
An' de earth an' de people wuz drapt f'um view.

An' I hyahd all 'roun' me how de sperits sang,  
An' de Lawd sang louder dan de whole shebang!

De Lawd sez, "Niggah, why 'n' cher look ergin?"  
An' dar wuz de Debbil, on de back uv Sin,  
A-bangin' on de critter wid his whip an' goad,  
An' boun' he gwine ter kotch us, on de Glory Road!  
"O Lawdy, it's de Debbil, comin' straight f'um Hell!  
I kin tell him by his roarin', an' de brimstone smell!"  
But de Lawd sez, "Niggah, he ain' kotch us yit!"  
An' He lashed an' He hustled, an' He loosed de bit.  
Den de Debbil crep' closuh, an' I hyahd him yell,  
"I'm gwine ter kotch a niggah, fur ter roas' in Hell!"  
An' I cried, "Lawd, sabe me!" An' de Lawd cry, "Sho!"  
An' hyah it was Hebben, an' we shet de do'.

O Glory, Glory, how de angels sang!  
O Glory, Glory, how de rafters rang!  
An' Moses 'n' Aaron, an' Methusalam,  
Dey shout an' dey holler, an' dey beat de drum.  
King Solomon kissed me, an' his thousan' wives,  
Jes' like dey'd knowed me, durin' all dey lives;  
An' de Lawd sez, "Niggah, take a gran'-stan' seat.  
But I 'specks youse hongry; have a bite ter eat?"  
An' de ravens fed me, an' Elijah prayed,  
An' de Sabed Ones gathered, while de organ played,  
An' dey cry, "O sinnah, come an' lose yuh load  
On de Glory Road, on de Glory Road.

An' come an' dwell in de Lawd's abode,  
Glory, Glory, on de Glory Road!"

Ses de Lawd, "No, sinnah, you mus' trabbel back  
Ter he'p po' niggahs up de Glory Track;  
Ter he'p old mo'ners, an' de scoffin' coons,  
By shoutin' loud Halleluyah tunes."

O come, mah breddren, won' you drap yuh load,  
An' ride ter Hebben up de Glory Road?

CLEMENT WOOD

### THE CONQUEROR

I HAVE no patience with the man who says,  
"Another day is gone."  
Give me the man who sings in thick of night,  
"Soon will be dawn!"

I have no patience with the man who holds  
Life as a beggar's tale,  
Give me the man with iron will to climb  
And courage not to fail.

He dies indeed who never sees the sun,  
Nor hears the song of rain,  
But his is immortality on earth,  
Whose every loss is gain!

MORRIS ABEL BEER

### STAR SONG

THREE are twisted roots that grow  
Even from a fragile white anemone.  
But a star has no roots: to and fro  
It floats in the light of the sky, like a water-lily,  
And fades on the blue flood of day.

A star has no roots to hold it,  
No living lonely entity to lose.  
Floods of dim radiance fold it;  
Night and day their silent aura transfuse,  
But no change a star can bruise.

A star is adrift and free.  
When day comes, it floats into space and complies;  
Like a spirit quietly,  
Like a spirit, amazed in a wider paradise  
At mortal tears and sighs.

GLADYS CROMWELL

### THE MEETING

THREE fir trees climbing against the sky,  
A road that ran to the top of the world,  
And a wind-drenched tumble of bending rye  
To the flaming ramparts of morning hurled.

The waters hurrying down to the sea  
Met the wind and the world in flower,  
And wind and waters made one in me,  
Kept in my heart an eternal hour.

EDWARD J. O'BRIEN

## DOMINION

I WENT beneath the sunny sky  
When all things bowed to June's desire, —  
The pansy with its steadfast eye,  
The blue shells on the lupin spire,

The swelling fruit along the boughs,  
The grass grown heady in the rain,  
Dark roses fitted for the brows  
Of queens great kings have sung in vain;

My little cat with tiger bars,  
Bright claws all hidden in content;  
Swift birds that flashed like darkling stars  
Across the cloudy continent;

The wiry-coated fellow curled  
Stump-tailed upon the sunny flags;  
The bees that sacked a coloured world  
Of treasure for their honey-bags.

And all these things seemed very glad,  
The sun, the flowers, the birds on wing,  
The jolly beasts, the furry-clad  
Fat bees, the fruit, and everything.

But gladder than them all was I,  
Who, being man, might gather up  
The joy of all beneath the sky,  
And add their treasure to my cup,

And travel every shining way,  
And laugh with God in God's delight,  
Create a world for every day,  
And store a dream for every night.

JOHN DRINKWATER

#### A PINCH OF SALT

WHEN a dream is born in you  
With a sudden clamorous pain,  
When you know the dream is true  
And lovely, with no flaw nor strain,  
O, then be careful, or with sudden clutch  
You'll hurt the delicate thing you prize so much.

Dreams are like a bird that mocks,  
Flirting the feathers of his tail.

When you seize at the salt-box  
Over the hedge you'll see him sail.  
Old birds are neither caught with salt nor chaff:  
They watch you from the apple bough and laugh.

Poet, never chase the dream.  
Laugh yourself and turn away.  
Mask your hunger, let it seem  
Small matter if he come or stay;  
But when he nestles in your hand at last,  
Close up your fingers tight and hold him fast.

ROBERT GRAVES

#### AND TO SUCH AS PLAY ONLY THE BASS VIOL

COULD we but hear the music of the days,  
As that unfinished symphony I heard last night,  
And see life's laborers as those who played, —  
Each taking his own part religiously,  
Knowing that if he fails in but one note  
The others can not make the perfect thing  
Which He the great Composer has designed!

I followed now this player and now that,  
As each some clear-wrought melody led forth,  
Speaking the theme for all the orchestra,  
Which gave assent in changing harmonies;

Or watched this group now regnant and now that,  
As when one party rising, dominant,  
Bears bravely forward some great truth, and then  
Another catches it and takes it on  
Till all break forth in final plebiscite.

• • • •  
But ever I came back to one who stood  
Calm in the varying moods of sound which swept  
Across the stage that was to me the State,  
The World. — His instrument could never lead;  
Its range was narrow; and, when played alone,  
It had no voice to stir or satisfy:  
Only with others had its strings the power  
To vibrate in immortal minstrelsy.

JOHN FINLEY

#### EXPECTANS EXPECTAVI

FROM morn to midnight, all day through,  
I laugh and play as others do,  
I sin and chatter, just the same  
As others with a different name.

And all year long upon the stage,  
I dance and tumble and do rage  
So vehemently, I scarcely see  
The inner and eternal me.

I have a temple I do not  
Visit, a Heart I have forgot,  
A self that I have never met,  
A secret shrine — and yet, and yet

This sanctuary of my soul  
Unwitting I keep white and whole,  
Unlatched and lit, if Thou should'st care  
To enter or to tarry there.

With parted lips and outstretched hands  
And listening ears Thy servant stands,  
Call Thou early, call Thou late,  
To Thy great service dedicate.

CHARLES HAMILTON SORLEY

#### THE GIFTS OF PEACE

All day long the wind in the bending branches  
Softly croons a chant for the silent sleepers,  
Through the hours the birds in unceasing rapture  
Echo the wind-song.

Tossing branches caught by the spars of sun-glow,  
Framing bits of blue with their leafy meshes,  
And upon the winds from the pine-tree's censer  
Attars unloosened.

Far away the valley lies in a day-dream,  
Warm and golden, swept by the clouds' swift shadows,  
While the grasses like distant ocean billows  
Drift in the sunshine.

Here is peace and loveliness ever mingled:  
Organ music of winds and birds and branches,  
And a brooding Presence that makes each moment  
A benediction.

THOMAS S. JONES, JR.

### PEACE

PEACE flows into me  
As the tide to the pool by the shore;  
It is mine forevermore,  
It will not ebb like the sea.

I am the pool of blue  
That worships the vivid sky;  
My hopes were heaven-high,  
They are all fulfilled in you.

I am the pool of gold  
When sunset burns and dies —  
You are my deepening skies;  
Give me your stars to hold.

SARA TEASDALE

### **STANZAS FROM "VARIATIONS"**

You are as beautiful as white clouds  
Flowing among bright stars at night:  
You are as beautiful as pale clouds  
Which the moon sets alight.

You are as lovely as golden stars  
Which white clouds try to brush away:  
You are as bright as golden stars  
When they come out to play.

You are as glittering as those stairs  
Of stone down which the blue brooks run:  
You are as shining as sea-waves  
All hastening to the sun.

**CONRAD AIKEN**

### **TWILIGHT CONTENT**

Is it the wind in trees or waters falling?  
Is it the canyon-shadows rushing down  
The ridgy slopes that seem so to be calling  
My heart in twilit tenderness to drown?

Is it the canyon wren's diminuendo  
That slips down a soft scale of minor peace?  
Is it the spell of night's lone wide crescendo  
Of mountain rest upon me — is it these?

Or but some sense of you I cannot measure?  
Some memory of a wind of love that blew  
Out of your heart to mine? Some darkling pleasure  
In the first shade of grief I shared with you?

I cannot tell. I only know how surely  
In you — and the world's beauty — I rejoice.  
The wren is still: gone to her nest demurely.  
The night has come — yet silence is your voice.

CALE YOUNG RICE

#### TO ONE WHO IS A VOICE

ONLY a voice — the wind among the leaves  
Shivered — a wistful, haunting melody  
Under the lilacs where great drops of dew  
Mirrored the pale, star-dusty evening sky;  
Was it the wind? Or was it only you,  
Dear distant friend, calling me from afar  
Through the long leagues of dusk, remote and blue?  
Or was it just a star?

JAMES L. McLANE, JR.

#### THE OLD WOMAN

As a white candle  
In a holy place,  
So is the beauty  
Of an aged face.

As the spent radiance  
Of the winter sun,  
So is a woman  
With her travail done,

Her brood gone from her,  
And her thoughts as still  
As the waters  
Under a ruined mill.

JOSEPH CAMPBELL  
(*Seosamh MacCathmhaoil*)

#### OUT OF THE DEEP

At the hour when the stars from the eastern spaces are peering,  
I stood on the cliffs that look on the sea, and strode  
Alone and laughing with pride in the squall's careering  
To feel my blood leap up at the tempest's goad.

At the base of the cliffs there was thunder of waves defeated;  
I measured the spaces of western sky whereon  
A sunbeam flamed farewell as the sun retreated  
And over the waters its wanng glory shone.

I leant by a rocky wall smooth-hewn and salted  
By the immemorial sprays of the endless tide,  
Like a cross on the brink of a lonely pit, exalted  
I clasped all space as I held my arms out wide.

And my full heart beat with the heart of the world's wide bosom,  
The sea's salt out of the sea my strong veins drew;  
I felt my body within me grow quick and blossom  
With seed of stars that the winnowing night let through.

I wanted to moan more loud than the ocean thunders,  
To breathe out my being in air like the tempest wrack;  
And, death o'er-leapt, feel the sacred ardour that sunders  
The soul from self that again unto God goes back.

CHARLES GUÉRIN  
(Translated by Wilfred Thorley)

### THE JOURNEY

WHAT matter where the Apple grows?  
True heroes never count the miles.  
The journey leads to where it leads —  
Sargasso or the Western Isles.

No one place holds the dreams of all.  
Earth wears a multi-colored robe,  
And there are new Hesperides  
In every corner of the globe.

Some find the fruit like Hercules —  
For such the moon and sun may stop;  
Yet never doubt that Sisyphus  
Achieved at last the mountain top.

SCUDDEER MIDDLETON

## LIVE THY LIFE

Live thy life gallantly and undismayed:  
Whatever harms may hide within the shade,  
Be thou of *fear*, my spirit! more afraid.

In earthly pathways evil springeth rife;  
But dread not thou, too much, or pain or strife  
That plunge thee to the greater depths of life!

What though the storm-cloud holds the bolt that sears?  
The eagle of the crag, that nothing fears,  
Still, still is young after an hundred years!

FLORENCE EARLE COATES

## THE SUPERMAN

He will come;  
I know not when, or how;  
But he will walk breast-high with God, stepping among the stars.  
Clothed in light and crowned with glory he will stride down the  
Milky Way,  
Creating with a thought, building with a word.

A hundred million ages it may be until he comes; what does it  
matter?  
Consider the deliberate stars — how eternity waits their fulfil-  
ments.

A hundred million ages, and yet, sometimes,  
Here and now, in these small, primeval days — in this dull  
gloaming of creation's dawn —  
Here and now, sometimes, there crackles out a tiny shimmer-  
ing spark,  
Some hint in our blind, protoplasmic lives,  
Of that far, infinite torch  
Whose ray shall one day touch the utmost reaches of space  
Where life is born.

One that has made brotherhood with the eagle and the  
hawk;  
One that has made voices speak across the emptiness;  
One that has laid cheer and comfort to the tired heart —  
These and a thousand others are the prophecy:  
These tell of the day  
When the poor expedient of birth and the sorry trouble of  
dying have been dismissed,  
And all the sad adventures of the body are long forgot.  
Walking as angels walk, but greater than the angels,  
He that will come will know not space nor time, nor any  
limitation,  
But will step across the sky, infinite, supreme — one with  
God.

ALBERT BIGELOW PAIN

## JAPANESE HOKKUS

To face only the sky and forget the land,  
Oh, to become a rider of the winds!

What a joy to find a greater song amid the clouds!

At eve,  
By a grass-made hut,  
The winds pass on,  
Saying something to the rice-plant leaves.

I am knocking at the door of Life,—  
Is nobody in?

The voice falls like a dream,  
Across the light of forgetfulness.

Eternity rolled in love,  
Bids the visible world to sing.

Is there anything new under the sun?  
Certainly there is.  
See how a bird flies, how flowers smile!

YONE NOGUCHI

### A FLEMISH MADONNA

HERE is no golden-crowned, celestial queen  
Such as Angelico would fitly paint,  
With pink-white cheek and haloed smile serene,  
Enringed by many a cherub, many a saint.  
This is a peasant woman worn by toil,  
Her cheeks are hollow as with child-bed's trace;  
A poor, plain creature of the common soil,  
Yet wearing godhead on her earnest face.  
Well have you wrought, good painter, that could show  
So pure a spirit in so rude a shrine.  
The dullest soul that looks on this will know  
That motherhood has loveliness divine.

What greater power than this has brush or pen:  
To bring the thought of God to simple men?

CHARLES WHARTON STORK

### BROTHERHOOD

If you want to find your brothers, find yourself . . .  
You are not a person; you are a race . . .

What we see of you is a ray of light emanating from the hidden  
skies within you . . .

In those skies humanity dwells . . .  
Enter them; find your brothers . . .

You shall find infinite love:  
You shall be all you see:  
Communion with the grass and the sea-waves shall be no harder  
than with human beings . . .  
St. Francis knew this: preaching to the birds.

Not alone in division of food and comfort,  
Not alone in bare Justice (long needed, the unescapable duty of  
our age)  
Not in these only shall Brotherhood come . . .

No, not until you go the ancient way;  
Way of Buddha, Jesus and Isaiah,  
The long long journey farther than sun from earth,  
(So near, such heavens away) to your own Soul,  
Shall dawn benign Brotherhood.

JAMES OPPENHEIM

#### WHEN PETER JACKSON PREACHED IN THE OLD CHURCH

*To be sung to the tune of the old Negro Spiritual,  
"Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart I'll pray"*

PETER JACKSON was a-preaching  
And the house was still as snow.  
He whispered of repentance  
And the lights were dim and low  
And were almost out  
When he gave the first shout:

"Arise, arise,  
Cry out your eyes."  
And we mourned all our terrible sins away.  
Clean, clean away.  
Then we marched around, around,  
And sang with a wonderful sound:—  
"Every time I feel the spirit moving in my  
heart I'll pray.  
Every time I feel the spirit moving in my  
heart I'll pray."  
And we fell by the altar  
And fell by the aisle,  
And found our Savior  
In just a little while,  
We all found Jesus at the break of the day,  
We all found Jesus at the break of the day.  
Blessed Jesus,  
Blessed Jesus.

VACHEL LINDSAY

AS WHEN SAINT FRANCIS WALKED THE WAYS  
OF EARTH”

As when Saint Francis walked the ways of earth  
And preached the simple beauty of God's word,  
Angel of Love to man and flower and bird  
Alike, so to the long, self-fostered dearth

Within my spirit, from your soul to mine,  
As the cool greenness in the heart of rain  
Quenches the thirst of meadows parched with pain,  
Came on strong wings of faith a breath divine.  
Pilgrim of Beauty, I who sought alone  
In the chill hearts of stars, and found not grace,  
Knew at your word that I could still atone —  
Beheld through crumbling mists of right and wrong,  
Lifted before the Silence of His face,  
The Grail of Beauty and the Wine of Song.

JAMES L. McLANE, JR.

### THE BIRDS

WITHIN mankind's duration, so they say,  
Krephren and Ninus lived but yesterday.  
Asia had no name till man was old  
And long had learned the use of iron and gold;  
And æons had passed, when the first corn was planted,  
Since first the use of syllables was granted.

Men were on earth while climates slowly swung,  
Fanning wide zones to heat and cold, and long  
Subsidence turned great continents to sea,  
And seas dried up, dried up interminably,  
Age after age; enormous seas were dried  
Amid wastes of land. And the last monsters died.

Earth wore another face. O since that prime  
Man with how many works has sprinkled time!  
Hammering, hewing, digging tunnels, roads;  
Building ships, temples, multiform abodes.  
How, for his body's appetites, his toils  
Have conquered all earth's products, all her soils;  
And in what thousand thousand shapes of art  
He has tried to find a language for his heart!

Never at rest, never content or tired:  
Insatiate wanderer, marvellously fired,  
Most grandly piling and piling into the air  
Stones that will topple or arch he knows not where.

And yet did I, this spring, think it more strange,  
More grand, more full of awe, than all that change,  
And lovely and sweet and touching unto tears,  
That through man's chronicled and unchronicled years,  
And even into that unguessable beyond  
The water-hen has nested by a pond,  
Weaving dry flags into a beaten floor,  
The one sure product of her only lore.  
Low on a ledge above the shadowed water  
Then, when she heard no men, as nature taught her,  
Plashing around with busy scarlet bill  
She built that nest, her nest, and builds it still.

O let your strong imagination turn  
The great wheel backward, until Troy unburn,  
And then unbuild, and seven Troys below  
Rise out of death, and dwindle, and outflow,  
Till all have passed, and none has yet been there:  
Back, ever back. Our birds still crossed the air;  
Beyond our myriad changing generations  
Still built, unchanged, their known habitations.  
A million years before Atlantis was  
Our lark sprang from some hollow in the grass,  
Some old soft hoof-print in a tussock's shade;  
And the wood-pigeon's smooth snow-white eggs were  
laid,  
High amid green pine's sunset-coloured shafts,  
And rooks their villages of twiggy rafts  
Set on the tops of elms, where elms grew then,  
And still the thumbling tit and perky wren  
Popped through the tiny doors of cosy balls  
And the blackbird lined with moss his high-built walls;  
A round mud cottage held the thrush's young,  
And straws from the untidy sparrow's hung.  
And, skimming forktailed in the evening air,  
When man first was were not the martens there?  
Did not those birds some human shelter crave,  
And stow beneath the cornice of his cave  
Their dry tight cups of clay? And from each door  
Peeped on a morning wiseheads three or four.

Yes, daw and owl, curlew and crested hern,  
Kingfisher, mallard, water-rail and tern,  
Chaffinch and greenfinch, wagtail, stonechat, ruff,  
Pied warbler, robin, fly-catcher and chough,  
Mistle-thrush, magpie, sparrow-hawk and jay,  
Built, those far ages gone, in this year's way.  
And the first man who walked the cliffs of Rome,  
As I this year, looked down and saw the same  
Blotches of rusty red on ledge and cleft  
With grey-green spots on them, while right and left  
A dizzying tangle of gulls were floating and flying,  
Wheeling and crossing and darting, crying and crying,  
Circling and crying, over and over and over,  
Crying with swoop and hover and fall and recover.  
And below on a rock against the grey sea fretted,  
Pipe-necked and stationary and silhouetted,  
Cormorants stood in a wise, black, equal row  
Above the nests and long blue eggs we know.

O delicate chain over all the ages stretched,  
O dumb tradition from what far darkness fetched:  
Each little architect with its one design  
Perpetual, fixed and right in stuff and line,  
Each little ministrant who knows one thing,  
One learnèd rite to celebrate the spring.  
Whatever alters else on sea and shore,  
These are unchanging: man must still explore.

J. C. SQUIRE

## TO THE MODERN MAN

From mysteries of the Past  
The Future is prophesied.  
The Actual comes and goes  
Like shadows on a tide.

Realities come and go  
Like shadows on a pool, —  
The leaves are for the wise man,  
The shadows for the fool.

Out of the moment Now  
Rises the god To-Be,  
The light upon his brow  
Is from eternity.

Leave dreaming to the fool  
And take things as they are;  
All things are in yourself,  
Who stand upon a star

And look upon the stars,  
And yearn with deepening breath —  
All things are in yourself —  
Love and Life and Death.

JOHN HALL WHEELOCK

## NEIGHBORS

Let me have faith, is what I pray,  
And let my faith be strong! —  
But who am I, is what I say,  
To think my neighbor wrong?

And though my neighbor may deny  
True faith could be so slight,  
May call me wrong, yet who am I  
To think my neighbor right?

We may discover by and by  
Making our wisdom double,  
That he is right and so am I —  
And save a lot of trouble.

WITTER BYNNER

## MAN-MAKING

We all are blind until we see  
That in the human plan  
Nothing is worth the making if  
It does not make the man.

Why build these cities glorious  
If man unbuilded goes?  
In vain we build the world, unless  
The builder also grows.

EDWIN MARKHAM

## A MAN

(FOR MY FATHER)

I LISTENED to them talking, talking,  
That tableful of keen and clever folk,  
Sputtering . . . followed by a pale and balking  
Sort of flash whenever some one spoke;  
Like musty fireworks or a pointless joke,  
Followed by a pointless, musty laughter. Then  
Without a pause, the sputtering once again . . .  
The air was thick with epigrams and smoke;  
And underneath it all  
It seemed that furtive things began to crawl,  
Hissing and striking in the dark,  
Aiming at no particular mark,  
And careless whom they hurt.  
The petty jealousies, the smiling hates  
Shot forth their venom as they passed the plates,  
And hissed and struck again, aroused, alert;  
Using their feeble smartness as a screen  
To shield their poisonous stabbing, to divert  
From what was cowardly and black and mean.

Then I thought of you,  
Your gentle soul,  
Your large and quiet kindness;  
Ready to caution and console,

And, with an almost blindness  
To what was mean and low.  
Baseness you never knew;  
You could not think that falsehood was untrue,  
Nor that deceit would ever dare betray you.  
You even trusted treachery; and so,  
Guileless, what guile or evil could dismay you?  
You were for counsels rather than commands.  
Your sweetness was your strength, your strength a sweetness  
That drew all men, and made reluctant hands  
Rest long upon your shoulder.  
Firm, but never proud,  
You walked your sixty years as through a crowd  
Of friends who loved to feel your warmth, and who  
Knowing that warmth, knew you.  
Even the casual beholder  
Could see your fresh and generous completeness,  
Like dawn in a deep forest, growing and shining through.  
Such faith has soothed and armed you. It has smiled  
Frankly and unashamed at Death; and, like a child,  
Swayed half by joy and half by reticence,  
Walking beside its nurse, you walk with Life;  
Protected by your smile and an immense  
Security and simple confidence.

Hearing the talkers talk, I thought of you . . .  
And it was like a great wind blowing

Over confused and poisonous places.  
It was like sterile spaces  
Crowded with birds and grasses, soaked clear through  
With sunlight, quiet and vast and clean.  
And it was forests growing,  
And it was black things turning green.  
And it was laughter on a thousand faces . . .  
It was, like victory rising from defeat,  
The world made well again and strong — and sweet.

Louis Untermeyer

IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND JOYCE KILMER  
POET AND SOLDIER

I HEAR a thousand chimes,<sup>1</sup>  
I hear ten thousand chimes,  
I hear a million chimes  
In Heaven.  
I see a thousand bells,  
I see ten thousand bells,  
I see a million bells  
In Heaven.

Listen, friends and companions.  
Through the deep heart,  
Sweetly they toll.

I hear the chimes  
Of tomorrow ring,  
The azure bells  
Of eternal love . . .  
I see the chimes  
Of tomorrow swing:  
On unseen ropes  
They gleam above.

Rejoice, friends and companions.  
Through the deep heart  
Sweetly they toll.

They shake the sky,  
They blaze and sing.  
They fill the air  
Like larks a-wing,  
Like storm-clouds  
Turned to blue-bell flowers.  
Like Spring gone mad,  
Like stars in showers.

Join the song,  
Friends and companions.  
Through the deep heart  
Sweetly they toll.

And some are near,  
And touch my hand,  
Small whispering blooms  
From Beulah Land.  
Giants afar  
Still touch the sky,  
Still give their giant  
Battle-cry.

Join hands, friends and companions.  
Through the deep heart  
Sweetly they toll.

And every bell  
Is voice and breath  
Of a spirit  
Who has conquered death,  
In this great war  
Has given all,  
Like Kilmer  
Heard the hero-call.

Join hands,  
Poets,  
Friends,  
Companions.  
Through the deep heart  
Sweetly they toll!

VACHEL LINDSAY

## AFTER GRIEVING

WHEN I was young I was so sad!  
I was so sad! I did not know  
Why any living thing was glad  
When one must some day sorrow so.  
But now when grief has come to me  
My heart is like a bird set free.

I always knew that it would come;  
I always felt it waiting there;  
Its shadow kept my glad voice dumb  
And crushed my gay soul with despair.  
But now that I have lived with grief  
I feel an exquisite relief.

Athletes who know their proven strength,  
Ships that have shamed the hurricane:  
These are my brothers, and at length  
I shall come back to joy again.  
However hard my life may be  
I know it shall not conquer me.

ALINE KILMER

## TO THE LITTLE HOUSE

DEAR little house, dear shabby street,  
Dear books and beds and food to eat!  
How feeble words are to express  
The facets of your tenderness.

How white the sun comes through the pane!  
In tinkling music drips the rain!  
How burning bright the furnace glows!  
What paths to shovel when it snows!

O dearly loved Long Island trains!  
O well remembered joys and pains.  
How near the housetops Beauty leans  
Along that little street in Queens!

Let these poor rhymes abide for proof  
Joy dwells beneath a humble roof;  
Heaven is not built of country seats  
But little queer suburban streets!

CHRISTOPHER MORLEY

#### THE SACRAMENT OF FIRE

KNEEL always when you light a fire!  
Kneel reverently, and thankful be  
For God's unfailing charity,  
And on the ascending flame inspire  
A little prayer, that shall upbear  
The incense of your thankfulness  
For this sweet grace  
Of warmth and light!

For here again is sacrifice  
For your delight.

Within the wood,  
That lived a joyous life  
Through sunny days and rainy days  
And winter storms and strife; —  
Within the peat,  
That drank the sweet,  
The moorland sweet  
Of bracken, whin, and sweet bell-heather,  
And knew the joy of gold gorse feather  
Flaming like Love in wintriest weather, —  
While snug below, in sun and snow,  
It heard the beat of the padding feet  
Of foal and dam, and ewe and lamb,  
And the stamp of old bell-wether; —  
Within the coal,  
Where forests lie entombed, —  
Oak, elm, and chestnut, beech, and red pine bole; —  
God shrined His sunshine, and enwombed  
For you these stores of light and heat,  
Your life-joys to complete.  
These all have died that you might live;  
Yours now the high prerogative  
To loose their long captivities,

And through these new activities  
A wider life to give.  
Kneel always when you light a fire!  
Kneel reverently,  
And grateful be  
For God's unfailing charity!

JOHN OXENHAM

SONNET

Let me be glad, let me be glad; arise  
My heart, and praise the Giver of good things.  
His angel came, with healing on his wings,  
He came and laid his hand upon my eyes,  
And there was benediction in the skies,  
And wondrous pharmacies in mountain springs,  
And psalms of praise in all their murmurings,  
And in the mountains help. Therefore arise  
My heart, and praise the Lord of all delight;  
The Lord of all delight who gave thee this,  
The Lord who taught thee what His worship is;  
And, when the magic hour has passed away,  
Through the long watches of the silent night  
Thou shalt remember what has been to-day.

SIR CECIL ARTHUR SPRING-RICE

### A BIRTHNIGHT CANDLE

A CANDLE, waiter! Thank you. No, 't is not  
To light a cigarette. I wish its flame  
For better use. A little nearer, please,  
For if the guests should see, they'd wonder — well,  
But you do know that I have touched no wine  
This hallowed night, this night the lad was born. —

The brilliant banquet-hall of myriad lamps  
Will not deny me this one little blaze  
From all its dazzling wealth to celebrate  
His natal festival.

Do you perchance,  
Not have this custom, *garçon*, in old France,  
Of lighting candles on a birthday cake,  
And quenching then each flame with some fond wish?  
Well, I have said that whereso'er this night  
O'ertook me exiled from his happy face,  
I'd blow a candle out with such desire  
As could have speech but in a lambent flame  
Piercing the mystery of space about. —  
The night has found me guest at this high feast,  
Companioned of famed men, but with my thought  
Ever of him and her who gave him birth.

And here's the candle! — For some holy rite  
'T was doubtless fashioned, and by hands that moved  
In rhythm with some sweet song, molding the wax  
Distilled by bees that roamed through flowered fields  
In drowsy summer afternoons, to store  
The precious fires from out the skies, and then  
To give them perfume of the fragrant earth.

There! It has gone, and never light since God  
Divided day from dark has borne a prayer  
More ardent than this wish for him whose name  
I, bearing, vow anew to keep from stain.

• • • • •

Put back the candle in its golden cup.  
No, thank you, waiter; no liqueur for me.  
But just a little coffee. Yes, two lumps.  
(The smoke is getting in my eyes.)

That's all.

JOHN FINLEY

#### THE HOME-LAND

It's a certain voice, it's the sound  
Of a bell in a distant tower,  
It's sunlight on the ground  
Through trees or after a shower,

It's a certain roof under a certain sky,  
The fragrance of the path of a certain street,  
A steeple with a farm kneeling nearby, |  
The feeling of the grass under the feet,  
The flash of a look, the faltering of a hand,  
A something from the past too quick to understand,  
It's what one feels and cannot say  
Even when one sings,  
Though that's the nearest way —  
It's all those things.

It's what one tastes and sees,  
It's what one breathes and hears,  
It's a smoke, it's melodies,  
Bright leaves, a wind that veers,  
The common sights and sounds,  
Dogs barking, people greeting,  
A mug of ale that pounds and pounds  
A table at some meeting,  
It's what one feels and cannot say  
Even when one sings,  
Though that's the nearest way —  
It's all those things.

It's the body's very best,  
It's the heart-beat in the side  
For children at the breast,  
It's remembering those who died,

It's the ardor of the way,  
It's the savor of the song,  
It's the dream, aching to stay,  
And the passion, to belong,  
The sower's will to reap,  
The lover's will to keep,  
It's what one feels and cannot say  
Even when one sings,  
Though that's the nearest way —  
It's all those things.

WITTER BYNNER

(From the French of Emile Cammaerts)

### NOSTALGIA

Give me my old coat again  
That I have worn through many days of rain,  
Whose hue is varied, ripened by the sun  
To subtle patterns; give me one  
Of my old books to read by firelight half asleep,  
Whose effaced memories leave gaps of deep  
Conjecture over thoughts that lie in rest  
Beneath their placid linen. Let the blest  
White hands of silence touch me, and the white  
Cool hands of rivers soothing through the night  
Into the hands of tranced sleepers — hands  
Reminiscent, binding me with scented bands.

The wake of clouds shall touch me whose pale ships  
Pass suavely over; let the whispering lips  
Of twilight tell me of dead loves and legend glories,  
And let these flames unscroll their golden stories  
And fold them with the pinch of dusty fingers.  
Ah, in this darkness many a sunset lingers,  
And many a dream within this dozing,  
Things slow revealed and dimly closing.  
Give me my old town again  
That I have watched through ghostly scarves of rain,  
Through fringes of pale lights, and let me see  
Her streets that wound into my brain so stealthily  
That I hear yet the chant of them that roars  
Along their blinded spectral corridors.  
Give my old joy and wonder back again,  
The adolescent loveliness of pain;  
But let me touch them now, and know and bless  
With this new love and dawning tenderness.

IRIS TREE

#### ALMS

I MET Poor Sorrow on the way  
As I came down the years;  
I gave him everything I had  
And looked at him through tears.

“ But Sorrow, give me here again  
Some little sign to show;  
For I have given all I own;  
Yet have I far to go.”

Then Sorrow charmed my eyes for me  
And hallowed them thus far:  
“ Look deep enough in every dark,  
And you shall see the star.”

JOSEPHINE PRESTON PEABODY

#### LYRICAL EPIGRAMS

MY little old dog:  
A heart-beat  
At my feet.

#### SPRING

A Winter wind,  
Primroses,  
And the new furrow.

#### FRIENDSHIP

The silence of midnight,  
A dying fire,  
And the best unsaid. . . .

EDITH WHARTON

## DRIFTWOOD

LIFE gave me these —  
The beauty that can only branch in trees  
Who are content, knowing the roots' securities —  
The strength to stand up straight and bear the wings  
Of a brave ship on her adventurings —  
The bitterness of being broken, being tossed  
And driven on the waters and the winds and lost  
In desolation, mist and stinging foam,  
And being beaten back at last to home.

Now Love has kindled me —  
Strange that my beauty of a dear, green tree  
Should vanish into smoke and memory,  
Strange that the strength, magnificently mine,  
Should fall before the flame without a sign —  
But oh most strange that bitterness should be  
Drawn up in color after color out of me!

WINIFRED WELLES

## CANDLE-LIGHTING SONG

I HAVE three candles in my room  
Slender and long and white,  
Their tips are buds of fire bloom  
That blossom every night.

And one I light for memory,  
All steady as a star;  
And one burns clear for days to be,  
And one for days that are.

I have three candles in my room  
Slender and tall and fair;  
And every one a fire bloom,  
And every one a prayer.

ARTHUR KETCHUM

#### TO BROWNING, THE MUSIC MASTER

OH, I once was a lad  
Of a single thought,  
Melody-mad,  
With ears for nought  
But the miracles Bach and Beethoven wrought,  
When suddenly you,  
Out of the blue,  
With your formal old master Galuppi, dropped,  
And grim-eyed Hugues  
Of the mountainous fugues,  
And the rampired walls of the marvelous Abt,—  
To build me, from Music's far-off strand,  
A way to a humaner, dearer shore —  
A bridge to poetry-land.

Then to my soul I swore:  
'If poets may win such store  
Of music's own highland air,  
Yet abide in the common round,  
Transmuting man's dusty ground  
To gems for the world to wear —  
Theirs too is a priceless art, —  
Is a thing that I fain would share —  
A thing that is near to my heart!"

Thus were a young soul's ears unstopped  
By Galuppi and Hugues and the marvelous Abt,  
Who bridged a way for ignorant feet  
And parted wide for wondering eyes  
The port of a second paradise;  
Showing how right it is, and meet  
That a Schubert's voice may never repeat,  
With the self-same thought and the self-same beat,  
Measures a Milton's lips have dropped; —  
That music waxes where poesy wanes,  
And, with thirsty lips to poesy's veins,  
Grows by her want, by her wasting, gains.

For music, the protean, is this, and this:  
The rainbow's shimmer of love's first bliss,  
A despairing gesture, a dream-like whim,  
The down on the plumes of the Cherubim,

The body of Ariel, lissom and fresh —  
Too subtle for poesy's golden mesh —  
An exquisite, evanescent shape  
That "breaks through language" to escape  
To the bourne of that country, brighter, vaster,  
Where now you are singing, dear Music Master.

ROBERT HAVEN SCHAUFLER

### MOONLIGHT IN THE BIRCH WOOD

ALONG the path where lights and shadows stream  
The birches in their silver armour gleam —  
Each tree as on parade, so straight and tall;  
The moon with magic fire is prodigal,  
And strangely unfamiliar all things grow.

Most spirit-like the wood is, with that shade  
Of sadness — such as ever doth pervade  
All loveliest things; while a soft purple haze  
Lends mystery to little hidden ways  
Portalled with laurel leaves that gleam like snow.

So deep it is, the stillness of the wood,  
The soul in perfect peace may dream or brood  
On all the fancies that could once beguile —  
And slip again, beneath the moon's pale smile,  
Into some faërie world of long ago.

ANTOINETTE DECOURSEY PATTERSON

**"THE FAIRIES HAVE NEVER A PENNY  
TO SPEND!"**

THE Fairies have never a penny to spend,  
They have n't a thing put by,  
But theirs is the dower of bird and of flower  
And theirs are the earth and the sky.  
And though you should live in a palace of gold  
Or sleep in a dried-up ditch,  
You could never be poor as the fairies are,  
And never as rich.

Since ever and ever the world began  
They have danced like a ribbon of flame,  
They have sung their song through the centuries long  
And yet it is never the same.  
And though you be foolish or though you be wise,  
With hair of silver or gold,  
You could never be young as the fairies are,  
And never as old.

**ROSE FYLEMAN**

**THE LOST PLAYMATE**

All in the pleasant afternoon  
I saw a pretty baby moon,  
And oh, I loved her silver shine!  
She was a little friend of mine.

Through rainy days and sunny weather  
I thought we two should play together;  
But, then, alas! I did not know  
How fast a little moon can grow.

And now when I go out to play  
I cannot find the moon all day;  
But she has grown so big and bright,  
They let her keep awake at night!

Though I may not sit up to see,  
In bed she comes and shines at me;  
But oh! I miss the little moon  
Who played there in the afternoon.

ABIE FARWELL BROWN

### ALONE

WHITE daisies are down in the meadow,  
And queer little beetles and things,  
And sometimes nice rabbits and field-mice  
And black-birds with red on their wings.

I want to explore all alone,  
With nobody spying around,  
All alone, all alone, all alone!  
It has such a wonderful sound.

Just I on the dusty town road,  
With my bank money safe in my purse.  
Do you think I shall ever grow up?  
Or shall I just always have nurse?

JOHN CHIPMAN FARRAR

#### THERE WAS A MOON, THERE WAS A STAR

THERE was a moon, there was a star,  
+ There was a path, a wood,  
A silent voice, a speechless word,  
Well heard and understood.

SARAH N. CLEGHORN

#### ALDEBARAN AT DUSK

THOU art the star for which all evening waits —  
O star of peace, come tenderly and soon!  
Nor heed the drowsy and enchanted moon,  
Who dreams in silver at the eastern gates  
Ere yet she brim with light the blue estates  
Abandoned by the eagles of the noon.  
But shine thou swiftly on the darkling dune  
And woodlands where the twilight hesitates.  
  
Above that wide and ruby lake to-West  
Wherein the sunset waits reluctantly,  
Stir silently the purple wings of Night.

She stands afar, upholding to her breast,  
As mighty murmurs reach her from the sea,  
Thy lone and everlasting rose of light.

GEORGE STERLING

#### A ROADSIDE SINGER

SOME who love song may only heed the lark;  
They do not hark  
The plaint of any less compelling flight  
Within their sight,—  
Yet weary ones, plodding along their way  
Through the tired day,  
Hear the near notes, and pause the while  
To list, — and smile.

Some singers cannot soar to sunlit heights;  
More lowly flights  
Are theirs, — along the by-ways bringing  
Joy by their singing.  
Thus may my song not seek the distant sky  
So far and high,  
But rather keep the hedges quiet side  
And there abide.

When tired mothers and children pass along,  
Hearing my song,

May I, rejoicing, keep my humble flight, —  
    Not beyond sight,  
But by the quiet roadside gladly dwelling,  
    My story telling  
In happy song and trilling roundelay  
    To cheer the way.

So may I make the skies seem nearer, bluer;  
    Hearts lighter, truer, —  
And all the pathway sweeter and less long,  
    Just for my song.

FREDERIC A. WHITING

#### THE LITTLE ROADS

THE great roads are all grown over  
    That seemed so firm and white.  
The deep black forests have covered them.  
    How should I walk aright?  
How should I thread these tangled mazes,  
    Or grope to that far off light?  
I stumble round the thickets, and they turn me  
    Back to the thickets and the night.  
  
Yet, sometimes, at a word, an elfin pass-word,  
    (O, thin, deep, sweet with beaded rain!)  
There shines, through a mist of ragged-robins,  
    The old lost April-coloured lane,

That leads me from myself; for at a whisper,  
Where the strong limbe thrust in vain,  
At a breath, if my heart help another heart,  
The path shines out for me again!

A thin thread, a rambling lane for lovers  
To the light of the world's one May,  
Where the white dropping flakes may wet our faces  
As we lift them to the bloom-bowed spray:  
O Master, shall we ask Thee, then, for high-roads,  
Or down upon our knees and pray  
That Thou wilt ever lose us in Thy little lanes,  
And lead us by a wandering way.

ALFRED NOYES

#### INVOCATION

COMRADE of solitude, Spirit of Joy,  
Making the dreamer a light-hearted boy;  
Come to me often, dwell with me long,  
Charm me with visions, cheer me with song!

Romp where the green-flowing meadows upfling  
Billows a-flower with the foam of the spring!  
Flit in the breath of the scent-laden air,  
Blend with the manifold melody there!

Fill the sweet hush of the midsummer glade,  
Pave all the ocean with turquoise and jade,  
Breast the gray mountain close at my side,  
Spread out the world for me wondrous and wide!

Deepen the splendor of leaves red and gold,  
Pour all the treasure my bosom can hold!  
Comfort me wistfully, tinge the soft west,  
Show me that death's but a sinking to rest!

Spur me with winter, spare not the chill,  
Sing in the blood though all else may be still.  
Swathe in moon-magic the dream-world of snow!  
Laugh o'er the logs while I bask in their glow!

Comrade of solitude, Spirit of Joy,  
Make of me ever a glad-hearted boy!  
Dwell in me, thrill in me all my life long,  
Be thou the music and words of my song!

CHARLES WHARTON STORK

#### THE LITTLE SHEPHERD'S SONG

(THIRTEENTH CENTURY)

THE leaves, the little birds, and I,  
The fleece clouds and the sweet, sweet sky,  
The pages singing as they ride  
Down there, down there where the river is wide —

Heigh-ho, what a day! What a lovely day!  
Even too lovely to hop and play  
With my sheep,  
Or sleep  
In the sun!

And so I lie in the deep, deep grass  
And watch the pages as they pass,  
And sing to them as they to me  
Till they turn the bend by the poplar tree.  
And then — O then, I sing right on  
To the leaves and the lambs and myself alone!  
For I think there must be  
Inside of me  
A bird!

WILLIAM ALEXANDER PERCY

#### CHOPIN PRELUDE

HUSH! Did you hear  
The cry of a flute?  
The fall of a fairy tear  
On a fairy lute?

Hush! Did you mark  
Like a leaping spray  
The flash of a silver lark  
In the silver day?

Hush! Did you find —  
In the wood's deep dream —  
The magic of all the wind  
By a magic stream?

Hush! Did you hear  
The cry of a flute!  
The fall of a fairy tear  
On a fairy lute?

HON. ELEANOUR NORTON

#### “TELL ME YOUR DREAM”

How as a child I used to tease,  
“Tell me your dream — I will tell mine, too!”  
They told me whatever they thought would please,  
And I waited to see the omen come true.  
My childhood fancy I still pursue,  
Though in other wise, and on each I call  
“Tell me your dream!” . . . But your dream is *you*:  
We are our dreams — and the Dream is all.

Do not deride me, do not deny,  
And point me not to the things you have *done*,  
But tell me your dream! Have you held thereby —  
The clue that was with your destiny spun,

Walked with it ever, through shadow and sun?  
Does the vision remain? — no ill shall befall;  
Lost? — there is nothing worth while to be won!  
We are our dreams — and the Dream is all.

Oh, why to memorial places repair,  
Where the lamps in the shrines perpetually burn?  
Your hero, your saint, or your sage is not *there*:  
Born of his dream, his deeds can but earn  
That unto a dream in the end they return!  
For this, is the trophy, the wreath, on the wall;  
And for this is your worship, that well ye may learn  
We are our dreams — and the Dream is all.

#### L'ENVOI

Fathers of Men, ye will leave your heirs poor,  
And the treasures ye heap shall be mean and small,  
If nothing ye leave of the dreams that endure. . . .  
We are our dreams — and the Dream is all.

EDITH M. THOMAS

#### IDYL

I KNOW a forest, stilly-deep,  
As old as Age, as young as Youth, —

(Hush, God and it are fast asleep!)

There crystal rivers tell the truth  
To asking trees,

And birds make musical bouquets,  
Where shadows go their patterned ways.

From fingers of the breeze . . .

We'll hide us in the green-voiced dell  
And waken God, and be made well —

(Oh, never tell, Oh, never tell . . .)

AMANDA BENJAMIN HALL

### THE GREAT DIVIDE

WHEN I drift out on the Silver Sea,  
O may it be  
A blue night  
With a white moon  
And a sprinkling of stars in the cedar tree;  
And the silence of God,  
And the low call  
Of a lone bird, —  
When I drift out on the Silver Sea.

LEW SARETT

## THE WILD SWANS AT COOLE

THE trees are in their autumn beauty,  
The woodland paths are dry,  
Under the October twilight the water  
Mirrors a still sky;  
Upon the brimming water among the stones  
Are nine and fifty swans.

The nineteenth Autumn has come upon me  
Since I first made my count;  
I saw, before I had well finished,  
All suddenly mount  
And scatter wheeling in great broken rings  
Upon their clamorous wings.

I have looked upon those brilliant creatures,  
And now my heart is sore.  
All's changed since I, hearing at twilight,  
The first time on this shore,  
The bell-beat of their wings above my head,  
Trod with a lighter tread.

Unwearied still, lover by lover,  
They paddle in the cold,  
Companionable streams or climb the air;  
Their hearts have not grown old;

Passion or conquest, wander where they will,  
Attend upon them still.

And now they drift on the still water  
Mysterious, beautiful;  
Among what rushes will they build,  
By what lake's edge or pool  
Delight men's eyes, when I awake some day  
To find they have flown away?

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

#### THE SUN-WORSHIPERS

THE trail is high whereon we ride, with all the world below to see,  
The cleft of canyon, sweep of range and winter-white of lonely  
peak;  
Lean foothold on the mountain-side, and on, beyond, The  
Mystery,  
The unattained, the hidden land we may not find, but ever  
seek.

Content were vain. Our discontent, divine, forever urges on  
Through stress and danger, scorned or shared, though jour-  
ney's end be never won:  
Say you our days are vainly spent whose eyes have looked upon  
the dawn  
From high Chilao's morning crest, and bathed our faces in the  
Sun?

We worship not what men have made: no thing so small is our desire.

The little words of men that die, the little thoughts of men that dream,

Shall perish in their utterance: and build for these an altar fire?

Our creed is written in the sky, our song in the eternal stream.

We journey on from star to star, nor shall we find a dwelling-place,

Nor yet implore surcease from toil: to be and to adore, is all:  
Beholding dimly from afar the glory of the Hidden Face,

Our worship ever our reward, the quest our golden coronal.

HENRY HERBERT KNIBBS

## TRAVEL

THE railroad track is miles away,  
And the day is loud with voices speaking,  
Yet there is n't a train goes by all day  
But I hear its whistle shrieking.

All night there is n't a train goes by,  
Though the night is still for sleep and dreaming,  
But I see its cinders red on the sky,  
And hear its engine steaming.

My heart is warm with the friends I make,  
And better friends I'll not be knowing,  
Yet there is n't a train I would n't take,  
No matter where it's going.

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

### JOHNNY APPLESEED

WHEN the air of October is sweet and cold as the wine of apples  
Hanging ungathered in frosted orchards along the Grand River,  
I take the road that winds by the resting fields and wander  
From Eastmanville to Nunica down to the Villa Crossing.

I look for old men to talk with, men as old as the orchards,  
Men to tell me of ancient days, of those who built and planted,  
Lichen gray, branch broken, bent and sighing,  
Hobbling for warmth in the sun and for places to sit and smoke.

For there is a legend here, a tale of the croaking old ones  
That Johnny Appleseed came here, planted some orchards  
around here,

When nothing was here but the pine trees, oaks and the beeches,  
And nothing was here but the marshes, lake and the river.

Peter Van Zylen is ninety and this he tells me:  
My father talked with Johnny Appleseed there on the hill-side,  
There by the road on the way to Fruitport, saw him  
Clearing pines and oaks for a place for an apple orchard.

Peter Van Zylen says: He got that name from the people  
For carrying apple-seed with him and planting orchards  
All the way from Ohio, through Indiana across here,  
Planting orchards, they say, as far as Illinois.

Johnny Appleseed said, so my father told me:  
I go to a place forgotten, the orchards will thrive and be here  
For children to come, who will gather and eat hereafter.  
And few will know who planted, and none will understand.

I laugh, said Johnny Appleseed: Some fellow buys this timber  
Five years, perhaps from to-day, begins to clear for barley.  
And here in the midst of the timber is hidden an apple orchard.  
How did it come here? Lord! Who was it here before me?

Yes, I was here before him, to make these places of worship,  
Labor and laughter and gain in the late October.  
Why did I do it, eh? Some folks say I am crazy.  
Where do my labors end? Far west, God only knows!

Said Johnny Appleseed there on the hill-side: Listen!  
Beware the deceit of nurseries, sellers of seeds of the apple.  
Think! You labor for years in trees not worth the raising.  
You planted what you knew not, bitter or sour for sweet.

No luck more bitter than poor seed, but one as bitter:  
The planting of perfect seed in soil that feeds and fails,  
Nourishes for a little, and then goes spent forever.  
Look to your seed, he said, and remember the soil.

And after that is the fight: the foe curled up at the root,  
The scale that crumples and deadens, the moth in the blossoms  
Becoming a life that coils at the core of a thing of beauty:  
You bite your apple, a worm is crushed on your tongue!

And it's every bit the truth, said Peter Van Zylen.  
So many things love an apple as well as ourselves.  
A man must fight for the thing he loves, to possess it:  
Apples, freedom, heaven, said Peter Van Zylen.

EDGAR LEE MASTERS

#### THE OULD APPLE WOMAN

WITH her basket of apples comes Nora McHugh,  
Wid her candies an' cakes an' wan thing an' another,  
But the best thing she brings to commind her to you  
Is the smile in her eyes that no throuble can smother.  
An' the wit that's at home on the tip of her tongue  
Has a freshness unknown to her candy and cake;  
Though her wares had been stale since ould Nora was young,  
There is little complaint you'd be carin' to make.  
Well I mind, on a day, I complained of a worm  
That I found in an apple, near bitten in two,  
"But suppose ye had bit it, an' where'd be the harm?  
For, shure, this is n't Friday," said Nora McHugh.  
  
O Nora McHugh, you've the blarneyin' twist in you,  
Where is the anger could drame o' resistin' you?  
Faix, we'll be sp'ilin' you,

Blind to the guile in you,  
While there's a smile in you,  
Nora McHugh.

It was Mistress De Vere, that's so proud of her name,  
Fell to boastin' wan day of her kin in the peerage —  
Though there's some o' thim same, years ago whin they came  
To this glorious land, was contint wid the steerage —  
An' she bragged of her ancestry, Norman an' Dane,  
An' the like furrin ancients that's thought to be swell.  
"Now, I hope," said ould Nora, "ye'll not think me vain,  
Fur it's little I care fur ancestry mesel';  
But wid all o' your pedigree, ma'am, I believe  
"T is mesel' can go back a bit further than you,  
Fur in me you perceive a descendant of Eve,  
The first apple woman," said Nora McHugh.

O Nora McHugh, sich owdacious frivolity!  
How can you dare to be jokin' the quality?  
Still, we'll be sp'ilin' you,  
Blind to the guile in you,  
While there's a smile in you,  
Nora McHugh.

THOMAS AUGUSTINE DALY

## MISS LOO

WHEN thin-strewn memory I look through,  
I see most clearly poor Miss Loo,  
Her tabby cat, her cage of birds,  
Her nose, her hair, her muffled words,  
And how she would open her green eyes,  
As if in some immense surprise,  
Whenever as we sat at tea  
She made some small remark to me.

'T is always drowsy summer when  
From out the past she comes again;  
The westering sunshine in a pool  
Floats in her parlour still and cool;  
While the slim bird its lean wires shakes,  
As into piercing song it breaks;  
Till Peter's pale-green eyes ajar  
Dream, wake; wake, dream, in one brief bar.  
And I am sitting, dull and shy,  
And she with gaze of vacancy,  
  
And large hands folded on the tray,  
Musing the afternoon away;  
Her satin bosom heaving slow  
With sighs that softly ebb and flow.  
And her plain face in such dismay,  
It seems unkind to look her way:

Until all cheerful back will come  
Her gentle gleaming spirit home:  
And one would think that poor Miss Loo  
Asked nothing else, if she had you.

WALTER DE LA MARE

“MY LIPS WOULD SING—”

My lips would sing a song for you, a soulful little song for you,  
A plaintive little song for you, upon a summer's day;  
But for the very life of me, the merry, merry life of me,  
The laughter-loving life of me, I cannot but be gay.

For oh, the sun is shining, Dear, and who could be repining,  
Dear,  
And who would be unhappy, Dear, when all the world is young?  
So I will hum a melody, a mirthful little melody,  
A joyous little melody that never yet was sung.

And you shall hear of Fairyland, of Kings and Queens of Fairy-  
land,  
Of men and maids of Fairyland, and Love shall be the theme,  
And straight before your brimming eyes, a golden glint of Para-  
dise  
Shall steal, My Dear, to still your sighs, and give you back your  
dream.

And you will taste of happiness, a tiny bit of happiness,  
A wistful bit of happiness, upon a summer's day;  
And just a little smile from you, a sunny little smile from you,  
A trembly little smile from you shall be a poet's pay!

EDMUND LEAMY

#### MY LIFE IS A BOWL

My life is a bowl which is mine to brim  
With loveliness old and new,  
So I fill its clay from stem to rim  
With you, Dear Heart, with you!

My life is a pool so small it can hold  
But a star and a patch of blue,  
But the blue and the little lamp of gold  
Are you, Dear Heart, are you!

My life is a homing bird that flies,  
Through the starry dusk and dew,  
Home to the heaven of your true eyes,  
Home, Dear Heart, to you!

MAY RILEY SMITH

#### THE HOMING HEART

EACH day, dear love, my road leads far  
From where you, home-contented, are.  
My mood is kin to that unrest  
Which sends the wild bird from its nest.

But tho' I have a roaming heart,  
God gave me too a homing heart,—  
How swift at dusk my paths run to  
The lights of home, the arms of you!

DANIEL HENDERSON

#### THE STIRRUP-CUP

Your eyes — and a thousand stars  
Leap from the night to aid me;  
I scale the impossible bars,  
I laugh at a world that dismayed me.

Your voice — and the thundering skies  
Tremble and cease to appall me —  
Coward no longer, I rise  
Spurred for what battles may call me.

Your eyes — and my purpose grows strong;  
Your lips — and high passions complete me . . .  
For your love, it is armor and Song —  
And where is the thing to defeat me!

LOUIS UNTERMEYER

#### OBLIGATION

HOLD your apron wide  
That I may pour gifts into it,  
So that scarcely shall your two arms hinder them  
From falling to the ground.

I would pour them upon you  
And cover you,  
For greatly do I feel this need  
Of giving you something,  
Even these poor things.

Dearest of my Heart!

AMY LOWELL

### RANK

Love is no advocate of caste —  
No pompous prime, no royal drone,  
Whose heart is fettered to a past,  
Whose soul is not his own.

Love is a freeman, bent on bliss,  
Who scatters incense where he goes  
And bids the peasant sunbeams kiss  
Alike the weed and rose.

RALPH M. THOMPSON

### ANGELINE

THAT Angeline  
Should have been overlooked,  
Among the hurrying throng  
Of doctors and nurses,

Of patients and orderlies,  
Is not strange.  
So dark she is,  
So meek,  
So occupied with mop and suds,  
So zealous that the ever-passing feet  
Have spotless floors  
To tread upon.

Her Gift  
Might have gone unnoticed  
But for the Boys.  
The very mention of it  
Embarrassed her.  
She stood,  
Twirling her apron,  
Her head bowed,  
Smiling  
With teeth agleam,  
Her great, soft, upturned eyes  
Heavy with tears.

"Ho, it's a lil thing  
I'ze doin',  
Fo' dem as done so much,  
A mighty lil thing.  
'Caze dey's jes' me an' lil Sue,  
Mah sistah's chile,

Mah po' sistah, wat died wid de flu.

So I sez to mase'f:

'Looka hyah, Angeline,  
Is yo' all gwine set back  
Doin' nuffin' fo' de Boys  
Jes' 'caze yo' cain't tek 'em  
Out ridin' in limmyzines,  
Lak de rich folks?'

"An' mase'f answer back:

'Corse yo' ain't!  
Wat about dat passel o' pullets,  
Yo' all done got?  
Dey's layin' fit to kill, ain't dey?  
De good Lawd mek yo' stewa'd  
O' dem pullets,  
An' dem aigs too.'  
Dat po' sick chile  
In room sebenty-fo' say dis mawnin':  
'Angeline, dem aigs so fresh,  
Yo' kin mos' hyah de hens cacklin'!'

"A Sunday ah done mek  
Chicken fry fo' de boy in sebenty-seben.  
Eat!  
Lan' sakes! eat lak a harves' han'.  
It's mighty lil —  
Wat's dat — 'widow's mite'?

No, sah,  
You'ze 'staken.  
I'ze a maiden lady!"

So mellow was Angeline's laugh,  
So full of good-will,  
It must have quickened the heart  
Of every "po' sick chile"  
Along the dim corridor.  
I looked back,  
At the turning.  
Again her industrious mop  
Was plying,  
Mop and suds,  
Busily plying.

HARRY LEE

#### A SONG

For Mercy, Courage, Kindness, Mirth,  
There is no measure upon earth.  
Nay, they wither, root and stem,  
If an end be set for them.

Overbrim and overflow,  
If your own heart you would know;  
For the spirit born to bless  
Lives but in its own excess.

LAURENCE BINYON

## MERCHANTMEN

All honour be to merchantmen,  
And ships of all degree  
In warlike dangers manifold  
Who sail and keep the sea, —  
In peril of unlitten coast  
And death-besprinkled foam,  
Who daily dare a hundred deaths  
To bring their cargoes home.

A liner out of Liverpool — a tanker from the Clyde —  
A hard-run tramp from anywhere — a tug from Merseyside —  
A cattle-boat from Birkenhead — a coaler from the Tyne —  
All honour be to merchantmen while any star shall shine!

All honour be to merchantmen,  
And ships both great and small,  
The swift and strong to run their race,  
And smite their foes withal;  
The little ships that sink or swim,  
And pay the pirates' toll,  
Unarmoured save by valiant hearts  
And strong in nought but soul.

All honour be to merchantmen  
So long as tides shall run,

Who gave the seas their glorious dead  
From rise to set of sun, —  
All honour be to merchantmen,  
While England's name shall stand,  
Who sailed and fought, and dared and died,  
And served and saved their land.

A sailing ship from Liverpool — a tanker from the Clyde —  
A schooner from the West country — a tug from Merseyside —  
A fishing smack from Grimsby town — a coaler from the Tyne —  
All honour be to merchantmen while sun and moon do shine!

C. Fox SMITH

### THREE SWORDS

THREE blades from out the smithy fire  
He drew, and forged with starry blows.  
Beyond his door the skies of God  
Bloomed like an unplucked rose.

“Three swords,” he said, “I make for you,  
O little Knight of Love and Youth!  
One blade is Knowledge, one is Faith,  
And one is Hope, forsooth!”

I was so young; and life, a rose  
That bloomed beyond the smithy door —  
“Give me the first,” I cried, and rode  
Out like a knight to war!

Another year I came again —  
His forge was like a rose agleam.  
“Give me the second sword,” I said,  
“That I may fight — and dream.”

The second sword lay in my hand,  
I rode once more, as knights must do,  
But all my casque was wet with tears,  
And my heart’s blood trickled through.

Then came I back along the road,  
Thrice-ridden, till I saw his fire  
Glow redly through the bitter dusk  
Like a flower of desire.

“The third!” I gasped. “Give me the third,  
The last sword, that I fight and die!”  
Then turned again, and lo, I saw  
A dust of roses through the sky!

DANA BURNET

## HOPE

WHEN I was a little boy,  
I followed hope and slighted joy.  
Now my wit has larger scope,  
I clutch at joy and heed not hope.

At least that doctrine I profess,  
For there I know lies happiness;  
But hope, for all the shifts I try,  
Will be my sovereign till I die.

GAMALIEL BRADFORD

### THE FLOWER FACTORY

LISABETTA, Marianina, Fiametta, Teresina,  
They are winding stems of roses, one by one, one by one,  
Little children who have never learned to play;  
Teresina softly crying that her fingers ache to-day;  
Tiny Fiametta nodding when the twilight slips in, gray.  
High above the clattering street, ambulance and fire-gong  
    beat,  
They sit, curling crimson petals, one by one, one by one.

Lisabetta, Marianina, Fiametta, Teresina,  
They have never seen a rosebush nor a dewdrop in the sun.  
They will dream of the vendetta, Teresina, Fiametta,  
Of a Black Hand and a face behind a grating;  
They will dream of cotton petals, endless, crimson, suffocating,  
Never of a wild-rose thicket nor the singing of a cricket,  
But the ambulance will bellow through the wanness of their  
    dreams,  
And their tired lids will flutter with the street's hysterick screams.

Lisabetta, Marianina, Fiametta, Teresina,  
They are winding stems of roses, one by one, one by one.  
Let them have a long, long playtime, Lord of Toil, when  
    toil is done,  
Fill their baby hands with roses, joyous roses of the sun!

FLORENCE WILKINSON EVANS

#### AFTER

AFTER the darkness, dawning  
    And stir of the rested wing.  
Fresh fragrance from the meadow,  
    Fresh hope in everything!

After the winter, springtime  
    And dreams that flowerlike throng;  
After the tempest, silence;  
    After the silence, song!

After the heat of anger,  
    Love that all life enwraps;  
After the stress of battle,  
    The trumpet sounding "taps";

After despair and doubting,  
    A faith without alloy;  
God here and over yonder,—  
    The end of all things Joy!

FLORENCE EARLE COATES

## THE HEART'S QUESTION

Is it such a little thing  
To find a wind-flower  
Twinkling in the wild-wood  
Hour after hour,  
Dancing to the wind's pipe  
With a happy nod?  
**Is it such a little thing?**  
I think it is God.

Is it such a little thing  
To find the young moon  
Flitting thro the tree boughs  
In her silver shoon,  
Seeking for the wind-flower  
There along the sod?  
**Is it such a little thing?**  
I think it is God.

Is it such a little thing  
To find in your face  
Something of the wind-flower  
And young moon's grace?  
Something of the wild-wood,  
Ever faery-trod?  
**Is it such a little thing?**  
I think it is God.

CALE YOUNG RICE

### THE THINGS THAT GROW

It was nothing but a little neglected garden,  
Laurel-screened, and hushed in a hot stillness;  
An old pear-tree, and flowers mingled with weeds.  
Yet as I came to it all unawares, it seemed  
Charged with mystery; and I stopped, intruding,  
Fearful of hurting that so absorbed stillness.  
For I was tingling with the wind's salty splendor,  
And still my senses moved with the keel's buoyance  
Out on the water, where strong light was shivered  
Into a dance dazzling as drops of flame.  
The rocking radiance and the winged sail's lifting  
And the noise of the rush of the water left behind  
Sang to my body of movement, victory, joy.  
But here the light was asleep, and green, green  
In a veined leaf it glowed among the shadows.  
A hollyhock rose to the sun and bathed its flowers  
Luminously clustered in the unmoving air;  
A butterfly lazily winked its gorgeous wings;  
Marigolds burned intently amid the grass;  
The ripening pears hung each with a rounded shadow:  
All beyond was drowned in the indolent blueness,  
And at my feet, like a word of an unknown tongue,  
Was the midnight-dark bloom of the delicate pansy.  
Suddenly these things awed my heart, as if here  
In perishing blossom and springing shoot were a power  
Greater than shipwrecking winds and all wild waters.

LAURENCE BINYON

## THE OLD HOUSE

O KINDLY house, where time my soul endows  
With courage, hope, and patience manifold,  
How shall my debt of love to thee be told,  
Since first I heard the sweet-voiced robins rouse  
The morn among thy ancient apple-boughs?  
Here was I nourished on the truths of old,  
Here taught against new times to make me bold,  
Memory and hope the door-posts, O dear house!

Heaven's blessing rested on thy dark-gray roof,  
And clasped thy children, age to lapsing age,  
Birth and the grave thy tale till time's release;  
Poverty did not hold from thee aloof;  
Of lowly good thou wast the hermitage;  
Now falls the evening light. God give thee peace!

GEORGE EDWARD WOODBERRY

## ON GROWING OLD

Be with me Beauty for the fire is dying,  
My dog and I are old, too old for roving,  
Man, whose young passion sets the spindrift flying  
Is soon too lame to march, too cold for loving.

I take the book and gather to the fire,  
Turning old yellow leaves; minute by minute,  
The clock ticks to my heart; a withered wire  
Moves a thin ghost of music in the spinet.

I cannot sail your seas, I cannot wander  
Your cornland, nor your hill-land nor your valleys  
Ever again, nor share the battle yonder  
Where the young knight the broken squadron rallies.

Only stay quiet while my mind remembers  
The beauty of fire from the beauty of embers.

Beauty, have pity, for the strong have power,  
The rich their wealth, the beautiful their grace,  
Summer of man its sunlight and its flower,  
Spring time of man all April in a face.

Only as in the jostling in the Strand,  
Where the mob thrusts or loiters or is loud  
The beggar with the saucer in his hand  
Asks only a penny from the passing crowd,

So, from this glittering world with all its fashion,  
Its fire and play of men, its stir, its march,  
Let me have wisdom, Beauty, wisdom and passion,  
Bread to the soul, rain where the summers parch.

Give me but these, and though the darkness close  
Even the night will blossom as the rose.

JOHN MASEFIELD

## THE PHILOSOPHER

I saw him sitting in his door  
Trembling as old men do;  
His house was old, his barn was old,  
And yet his eyes seemed new.

His eyes had seen three times my years  
And kept a twinkle still  
Though they had looked at birth and death  
And three graves on a hill.

“I will sit down with you,” I said,  
“And you will make me wise;  
Tell me how you have kept the joy  
Still burning in your eyes.”

Then like an old-time orator  
Impressively he rose;  
“I make the most of all that comes  
And the least of all that goes”—

The jingling rhythm of his words  
Echoed as old songs do,—  
Yet this had kept his eyes alight  
Till he was ninety-two.

SARA TEASDALE

## THE BACKSLIDER

“No, Mis’ Talbot, I’m not going to church.  
I never thought I’d be a backslider,  
But I’ve come to it at last. The new preacher  
Has upset all my ideas of religion,  
For he don’t believe the Bible is true,—  
Leastwise only in parts. To his thinking,  
Adam and Jonah never were alive:  
They are just story-book folks. I heard that  
And did n’t flinch, for Adam don’t mean much  
To a Methodist who can’t believe  
In John Calvin and predestination.  
Besides, Adam always seemed to me weakly  
In his mind. I’m not a voting female  
Champing for women to do everything,  
But I do think Eve was an improvement on Adam.

“Now about old Jonah:  
I always took him with a ‘grain of salt.’  
He must have been shiftless and careless;  
I never could abide a lazy man.  
I think we ought to raise our own gourd vines  
To keep the sun from giving us sunstroke,  
And not lay too much on the Lord’s shoulders.  
I stood the preacher’s talk until he killed Job;  
Then I rose right up in meeting and said:  
‘No, you cannot take Job away from me.

He was a perfect and an upright man,  
And he has been my good friend all my life.'

"I can see him just as plain as can be  
Bearing the scourges of the Almighty  
With fortitude, and I know how he felt  
When God spoke to him out of the whirlwind.  
Job has been the friend of so many folks  
I wonder even the new minister  
Dares to say a word against him, and tell  
This generation that he never lived.  
He is more alive than some men I know  
Breathing on earth today.

"So now you see  
Why I'm not going to church any more.  
I'll sit here under the Sweet Locust tree  
While you're gone, and read a chapter or two, —  
Perhaps the thirty-eighth chapter of Job,  
That tells of the morning stars singing  
Together with the Sons of God for joy,  
And of the 'understanding of the heart,'  
For all the people who ever did any good  
In this world understood things with the heart, —  
And the world won't be much different  
In that. I fancy the new minister  
Has n't found his heart yet. After he's lived  
And suffered, he'll take Job out of his grave

And find he is alive, and a friend,  
And say with him in humbleness of mind:  
'I have uttered that I understood not,'  
And find in the end Job's peace and Job's blessings."

JEANNE ROBERT FOSTER

#### THE HILL-BORN

You who are born of the hills,  
Hill-bred, lover of hills,  
Though the world may not treat you aright,  
Though your soul be aweary with ills:  
This will you know above other men,  
In the hills you will find your peace again.

You who were nursed on the heights,  
Hill-bred, lover of skies,  
Though your love and your hope and your heart,  
Though your trust be hurt till it dies:  
This will you know above other men,  
In the hills you will find your faith again.

You who are brave from the winds,  
Hill-bred, lover of winds,  
Though the God whom you know seems dim,  
Seems lost in a mist that blinds:  
This will you know above other men,  
In the hills you will find your God again.

MAXWELL STRUTHERS BURT

### A HILLSIDE FARMER

DAWN — and the mist across the silent lane;  
Each day its little round of petty tasks.  
“Are you not very lonely?” someone asks,  
“Here where the old folks stay, and no one new  
Comes in to start a farm? You should go, too;  
Valleys grow better grain.”

This may seem still and lonely, but for me  
Hill-tops are wider than the open land.  
Maybe you never could quite understand  
How dear it is to me — this loneliness.  
You think the hills are narrowing, I guess;  
But, oh, how far we see!

JOHN CHIPMAN FARRAR

### REFUGE

WHEN stars ride in on the wings of dusk,  
Out on the silent plain,  
After the fevered fret of day,  
I find my strength again.

Under the million friendly eyes  
That smile in the lonely night,  
Close to the rolling prairie's heart,  
I find my heart for the fight.

Out where the cool long winds blow free,  
I fling myself on the sod;  
And there in the tranquil solitude  
I find my soul, — and God.

LEW SARETT

### THE STORM

The wind was a crowd,  
Wet birds were the skies,  
I marched laughing aloud  
With the storm in my eyes.

Part beast and part bird,  
A waif of the plain,  
My laughter was heard  
With the voice of the rain.

I thought I remembered  
A night long ago  
When our hoofs beat the sod  
And we rushed to and fro,

Our flanks steaming hot,  
Rain-driven and warm!  
I had almost forgot  
Till I ran with the storm.

I thought I remembered  
Black roads to a star,  
When the wind in our pinions  
Beat us up and afar.

How shrill were our cries,  
As we flew from the plain!  
Oh, that road to the skies,  
Beaten up by the rain!

The flails of the storm  
Beat my soul from its mesh.  
It paled like a mist,  
Driven out of the flesh.

It flew through the night  
To my mother's warm hand,  
But I — I was abroad  
With the wind and the sand.

Unhuman and strange,  
'Twixt the rain and the stone,  
I must flutter and range  
Through the dark all alone!

The darkness,  
The wetness,  
The sleekness,  
The fatness

Of shapes in the tempest  
Submerged, with no name,  
As with laughter and shout  
And a clapping of hands  
I danced in and out  
Or clove in the sands.  
As straight as the lightning  
I struck and I came —  
The storm was the thunder,  
And I was the flame.

It was thus that I ran  
To the House on the Hill,  
When the voice of love  
Bade the tempest be still.

Then I gathered me back  
From the rain and the sand  
To the soul held so close  
In my mother's warm hand.

ANNA HEMPSTEAD BRANCH

#### WIND-IN-THE-HAIR AND RAIN-IN-THE-FACE

Wind-in-the-hair and Rain-in-the-face  
Are friends worth the having, and yours at command;  
For many's the hour and many's the place  
We've frolicked together on ocean or land.

They'll brighten the darks of your gloomiest mood!  
They'll strengthen your heart with their boisterous play,  
They'll buffet your anger until it's subdued,  
They'll sport with your sorrow and whisk it away.

Don't clutch in your curls with that grasp of despair!  
A tear on the cheek is a drop out of place!  
"I'll rumple your tresses!" roars Wind-in-the-hair.  
"Let me do your crying!" trills Rain-in-the-face.

No seven-league boots like a pair of old shoes,  
No wish-cloak that equals a rain-beaded coat,  
To take you away from the Realm of the Blues,  
To give you the will that grips Care by the throat!

How petty our griefs under God's open sky!  
How often but ghosts of a conjuring brain!  
How quickly they dwindle, how lightly they fly,  
When winnowed and washed by the wind and the rain!

Then, on with your shaggiest, hardiest wear!  
(The kind that the women-folk term "a disgrace!")  
And swing down the highway with Wind-in-the-hair,  
Or splash through the puddles with Rain-in-the-face!

ARTHUR GUITERMAN

### THE PUDDLE

I CURSED the puddle when I found  
Unseeing I had walked therein,  
Forgetting the uneven ground,  
Because my eyes  
Were on the skies,  
To glean their glory and to win  
The sunset's trembling ecstasies.

And then I marked the puddle's face;  
When still and quiet grown again,  
Was but concerned, as I, to trace  
The wonder spread  
Above its head,  
And mark and mirror and contain  
The gold and purple, rose and red.

EDEN PHILLPOTTS

### AUTUMN

Now, like a rough buffet in my face,  
The first breeze of Autumn,  
Burlily swaggering through the blistered streets,  
Lashes my summer-drugged spirit.

From the chill far hills it comes,  
Brusquely jostling down the fruit in the orchards,

Clawing the gay-colored leaves from the trees,  
Until their thin corpses litter the ground,  
And crying to the spirits of men:  
“Ho, away with you!  
Skulk to your dim houses,  
Cower from your frosty master!  
I and my brother, Winter, proscribe you!  
We will chill with our icy touch  
The gay glow of your hearts,  
We will strip bare the foliage of your souls.”

Ah, breeze of Autumn,  
You are no conqueror to me,  
But brother of my spirit.  
Your rough handshake bugles up my laggard self.  
Though you bluster with your chill blast  
I will roar you back from my loved ways.  
Your tempest heartens my soul  
For the keen struggle remaining,  
And the glad, hard road.

CLEMENT WOOD

### SEASONS

THE night leans dumb above the frozen fields.  
High overhead, bare treetops interlacing,  
Write on the sky, their ancient secrets tracing.

Where are the seasons gone? Old autumn leaves  
Fly on the wind, and now in wild December  
Soar like the birds who love and spring remember.

White stars drop petals from their deathless bloom  
Down on the ice-black pools. The moonlight, kneeling,  
With silvery hands the wounded earth is healing.

O blessed spell that brings the May once more!  
Warm Beauty on the world her web is flinging,  
And Memory turns and beckons to me singing.

GRETCHEN O. WARREN

### FAITH

If on this night of still, white cold,  
I can remember May,  
New green of tree and underbrush,  
A hillside orchard's mounting flush,  
The scent of earth and noon's blue hush,  
A robin's jaunty way;

If on this night of bitter frost,  
I know such things can be,  
That lovely May is true — ah, well,  
I shall believe the tales men tell,  
Wonders of bliss and asphodel,  
And immortality.

HORTENSE FLEXNER

## IMMORTALITY

BATTLES nor songs can from oblivion save,  
But Fame upon a white deed loves to build;  
From out that cup of water Sidney gave,  
Not one drop has been spilled.

LIZETTE WOODWORTH REESE

## WINTER

GREEN Mistletoe!  
Oh, I remember now  
A dell of snow,  
Frost on the bough;  
None there but I:  
Snow, snow, and a wintry sky.

None there but I,  
And footprints one by one,  
Zigzaggedly,  
Where I had run;  
Where shrill and powdery  
A robin sat in the tree.

And he whistled sweet;  
And I in the crusted snow

With snow-clubbed feet  
Jigged to and fro,  
Till, from the day,  
The rose-light ebbed away.

And the robin flew  
Into the air, the air,  
The white mist through;  
And small and rare  
The night-frost fell  
In the calm and misty dell.

And the dusk gathered low,  
And the silver moon and stars  
On the frozen snow  
Drew taper bars,  
Kindled winking fires  
In the hooded briers.

And the sprawling Bear  
Growled deep in the sky;  
And Orion's hair  
Streamed sparkling by:  
But the North sighed low,  
“Snow, snow, more snow!”

WALTER DE LA MARE

## THE ONSET

ALWAYS the same when on a fated night  
At last the gathered snow lets down as white  
As maybe in dark woods and with a song  
It shall not make again all winter long  
Of hissing on the yet uncovered ground,  
I almost stumble looking up and round,  
As one who overtaken by the end  
Gives up his errand and lets death descend  
Upon him where he is, with nothing done  
To evil, no important triumph won  
More than if life had never been begun.

Yet all the precedent is on my side:  
I know that winter death has never tried  
The earth but it has failed: the snow may heap  
In long storms an undrifted four feet deep  
As measured against maple, birch, and oak;  
It cannot check the Peeper's silver croak;  
And I shall see the snow all go down hill  
In water of a slender April rill  
That flashes tail through last year's withered brake  
And dead weeds like a disappearing snake.  
Nothing will be left white but here a birch  
And there a clump of houses with a church.

ROBERT FROST

## SNOW DUST

THE way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree  
  
Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.

ROBERT FROST

## BELL OF DAWN

FAINT music of a bell which dawn brings to my ear, made my heart young again here at the break of day.

Faint bell-like music which through dewy dawn I hear ringing so far, so near, changed all I hope and fear.

What, shall I after this, survive my dear-bought bliss, music by which my soul's far youth recovered is?

Chiming so far away, so lonely and withdrawn, O little singing air in the fresh heart of dawn,

You flee, return and ring: seeking like love to stray, you tremble in my heart here at the break of day.

Ah, can life ever be of such serenity, so peaceful, mild and fair as is this little air?

So simple yet so sweet as, over meadows borne, this little tune that thrills all the fresh heart of morn?

PAUL FORT  
(Translated by Ludwig Lewisohn)

#### THE BIRD AT DAWN

WHAT I saw was just one eye  
In the dawn as I was going:  
A bird can carry all the sky  
In that little button glowing.

Never in my life I went  
So deep into the firmament.

He was standing on a tree,  
All in blossom overflowing;  
And he purposely looked hard at me,  
At first, as if to question merrily:  
“Where are you going?”  
But next some far more serious thing to say;  
I could not answer, could not look away.

Oh, that hard, round, and so distracting eye:  
Little mirror of all sky! —  
And then the after-song another tree  
Held, and sent radiating back on me.

If no man had invented human word,  
And a bird-song had been  
The only way to utter what we mean,  
What would we men have heard,  
What understood, what seen,  
Between the trills and pauses, in between  
The singing and the silence of a bird?

HAROLD MONRO

### THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

SOFTLY I come into the dance of the spheres,  
Into the choir of lights,  
New from my nest in God's heart.  
O Night, the chosen of nights,  
Longing and dream of the years,  
Blessèd thou art.

Golden the fruit hangs on the hyaline tree;  
Golden the glistening tide  
Sweeps through the heavens; the cars  
Of the great mooned planets glide  
Golden; and yet to me  
Bow down the stars;

Casting their crowns, bright with æonian reigns;  
Under the flight of my feet  
Eager for Bethlehem,  
Thither with music-beat

Blent of innumerous strains  
Marshaling them.

Sweetly their chant soars through unsearchable space,  
Quivering vespers that thrill  
Into the deep nocturne-  
Symphony I fulfill;  
I, who, like Mary's face,  
Wonder and yearn,

Cherish, adore, keeping the watch above  
The Word made flesh to-night;  
Wonderful Word, impeared  
In childhood holy-white;  
Word that is Godhood, Love,  
Light of the World.

KATHARINE LEE BATES

THE CHRISTMAS CAROL OF THE BEES  
(FOUNDED ON AN OLD ENGLISH SUPERSTITION)

'T is Christmas Eve in an Old World garden,  
An English garden of long ago,  
And down in the dusk of the privet hedges  
The beehives stand in a goodly row.  
Still is each trim little conical dwelling,  
Still are the delicate wings below;  
Hardly the wind dares venture a whisper  
Over the beds where the flowers grow.

*Still, still, garden and field and hill,  
Waiting the radiant Christmas morn,  
Waiting the heav'ly morn.*

Midnight strikes from the ivied tower, —  
Hark, what a clamor the tolling brings!  
Bells in the distance joyfully answer;  
Earth, rejoicing an anthem sings.  
Down where the honey-bees cling and cluster,  
Buzzing, humming, a carol rings —  
“Christ is born!” so the golden chorus;  
“Praise Him! ye that have voice and wings!”

*Sing, sing, ye that have voice and wing.  
Sing, for the Sun of the World is born,  
Sing for the Christ is born!*

NORA ARCHIBALD SMITH

#### THE BIRTH

THERE is a legend that the love of God  
So quickened under Mary's heart it wrought  
Her very maidenhood to holier stuff . . .  
However that may be, the birth befell  
Upon a night when all the Syrian stars  
Swayed tremulous before one lordlier orb  
That rose in gradual splendor,  
Paused,

Flooding the firmament with mystic light,  
And dropped upon the breathing hills  
A sudden music  
Like a distillation from its gleams;  
A rain of spirit and a dew of song!

DON MARQUIS

#### CRADLE-SONG

MADONNA, MADONNINA,  
Sat by the grey road-side,  
Saint Joseph her beside,  
And Our Lord at her breast;  
Oh they were fain to rest,  
Mary and Joseph and Jesus,  
All by the grey road-side.

She said, Madonna Mary,  
“I am hungry, Joseph, and weary,  
All in the desert wide.”  
Then bent a tall palm-tree  
Its branches low to her knee;  
“Behold,” the palm-tree said,  
“My fruit that shall be your bread.”  
So were they satisfied,  
Mary and Joseph and Jesus,  
All by the grey road-side.

From Herod they were fled  
Over the desert wide,  
Mary and Joseph and Jesus,  
In Egypt to abide:  
Mary and Joseph and Jesus,  
In Egypt to abide.

The blessed Queen of Heaven  
Her own dear Son hath given  
For my son's sake; his sleep  
Is safe and sweet and deep.

Lully . . . Lulley . . .  
So may you sleep alway,  
My baby, my dear son:  
Amen, Amen, Amen.

My baby, my dear son.

ADELAIDE CRAPSEY

#### HIS MOTHER IN HER HOOD OF BLUE

WHEN Jesus was a little thing,  
His mother, in her hood of blue,  
Called to Him through the dusk of spring:  
“Jesus, my Jesus, where are you?”

Caught in a gust of whirling bloom,  
She stood a moment at the door,  
Then lit the candle in the room,  
In its pink earthen bowl of yore.

The little Jesus saw it all; —  
The blur of yellow in the street;  
The fair trees by the tumbling wall;  
The shadowy other lads, whose feet

Struck a quick noise from out the grass;  
He saw, dim in the half-lit air,  
As one sees folk within a glass,  
His mother with her candle there.

*Jesus! Jesus!*

When He a weary man became,  
I think, as He went to and fro,  
He heard her calling just the same  
Across that dusk so long ago.

*Jesus!*

For men were tired that had been bold; —  
And strange indeed this should befall —  
One day so hot, one day so cold —  
But mothers never change at all.

*Jesus!*

LIZETTE WOODWORTH REESE

## GREEN CROSSES

At the back of the pompous houses,  
Above the beautiful river-way,  
A row of squalid barrels  
Blush at themselves in the morning light.  
From one grotesquely leaning,  
Dusty and scarred  
Amid the dead, forgotten slag and ashes,  
A fir-tree thrusts its live, protesting fingers —  
Crosses of green.  
About it still cling a few silver cobwebs,  
Rags of its brief splendor.  
It was the Christmas Tree  
That graced the cheerful drawing-room  
A little while;  
That blessed the comfortable house with its fragrance,  
And with its symbols of love,  
The small green crosses.

A pinched, pale child with hungry eyes,  
Ragged and wolfish, but with wisps of glory  
Still haloing her hair,  
Comes with her bag of rubbish,  
Her eyes brighten;  
She sets down her heavy burden,  
She forgets the cold as she picks at the little tree,  
Plucks eagerly at the fragile cobwebs;

They are so silvery few!  
But they do not go into the heavy sack.  
Her thin, blue fingers snap one of the green crosses;  
She twists the tinsel thread about it,  
And sticks it in her breast.  
Then she shoulders her bundle of trash,  
And stumbles away, smiling.  
The green crosses, alive in the dust!  
The Christmas Tree!  
The evergreen tree whose roots are cut —  
On the dump it will die!

The Christmas Tree!  
What if this ornament of brief holidays,  
This plaything of a favored few,  
This strong, slow-murdered creature of pure woods,  
With its green crosses,  
Were really growing!  
If it were rooted in the hearts  
Of Christendom!  
How different a world would see this sunny morning!  
No war; no hate;  
No want nor selfishness;  
No ragged children, starved for tinsel joys,  
Furtively clutching at rejected beauty  
On a forgotten cross,  
The green cross of Love.

ABBIE FARWELL BROWN

### **"EVEN THE LEAST OF THESE"**

HEEDLESS of other toys from Christmas trees,  
To the earth's round globe my young son turned his face,  
When he discovered that he could with ease  
The gaily tinted countries find and trace,  
With joy his arms encircled lands and seas,  
Both hemispheres were clasped in his embrace.

The world was sheltered upon Youth's warm breast,  
In Youth's pure love the nations lay at rest.

ADA M. ROBERTS

### **WINTER'S TURNING**

Snow is still on the ground,  
But there is a golden brightness in the air.  
Across the river,  
Blue,  
Blue,  
Sweeping widely under the arches  
Of many bridges,  
Is a spire and a dome,  
Clear as though ringed with ice-flakes,  
Golden, and pink, and jocund.  
On a near-by steeple,

A golden weather-cock flashes smartly,  
His open beak "Cock-a-doodle-dooing"  
Straight at the ear of Heaven.  
A tall apartment house,  
Crocus-coloured,  
Thrusts up from the street  
Like a new-sprung flower.  
Another street is edged and patterned  
With the bloom of bricks,  
Houses and houses of rose-red bricks,  
Every window a-glitter.  
The city is a parterre,  
Blowing and glowing,  
Alight with the wind,  
Washed over with gold and mercury.  
Let us throw up our hats,  
For we are past the age of balls  
And have none handy.  
Let us take hold of hands,  
And race along the sidewalks,  
And dodge the traffic in crowded streets.  
Let us whir with the golden spoke-wheels  
Of the sun.  
For to-morrow Winter drops into the waste-basket,  
And the calendar calls it March.

AMY LOWELL

## PROMISE

*A thousand infant faces, soft and sweet,  
Each year sends forth.*

SARA COLEBRIDGE

THE winds of March blow down the frozen ways;  
Snow melts; runnels meander through a maze  
Of broken channels.

The sun is warm; the branches of the trees,  
Though leafless, yet are quickened by degrees  
With hidden life.

Behind the bark new buds await the hour  
When, venturing forth, slowly they grow to flower  
In strength and grace.

Spring is the herald of the summer-time,  
As freighted argosies in former time  
Foreshadowed wealth,

Bearing their burden from a southern land,  
Spices from India, silks from Samarcand  
To homeland port.]

Perchance unseen our treasure-galleon lies  
Beyond our sight, bearing a richer prize,  
Immortal freight,

Our spring's desired flower, small and furled,  
Brought from the garden of another world  
Whose God is Love.

NORREYS JEPHSON O'CONOR

### THE WAKEFUL DARK

THERE is a crowd upon the air to-night;  
The leaves are out,  
Clustered and gathered to the farthest tip  
Of the dim branches' edge.  
All in a day, the wet wind called  
And they rushed forth,  
Bearing the fragrance of the trees' deep heart  
In their unfolding wings.  
The dark is thickly plumed and tufted where  
They wait, a misty, swinging crowd  
Too glad for sleep.

Beside my window, restless too, I stand  
Athirst like leaf and garden  
For the day.  
And when the moist wind, groping for more sweet,  
Lilac or violet, or the new, slim buds,  
Touches my face,

I feel the petals of my heart  
Tremble and open wide,  
As if it too  
Had bloomed upon the night.

HORTENSE FLEXNER

#### AS WE GO ON

As we go on, grow older, grow more wise,  
Grow friendlier with every friendly thing,  
The honourable trees, grave dusk, the swing  
Of upland meadows upward to the skies,  
And even the old new fraudulent surprise  
Of that quaint smiling paradox the spring,  
How greatly beauty once again can bring  
In smaller ways tears to our tenderer eyes.

We do not wait on mountains or on seas,  
For there's a little lake between the hills,  
That rustles with the sedges and the bees;  
And great adventure found in daffodils  
Stirs April gardens, when the world again  
Is quick with mice and moles, crickets and men.

MAXWELL STRUTHERS BURT

## OUT OF THE DESERT

Out of this little and this nothingness  
I will build slowly what cannot be effaced,  
There shall come sound of iron hammers ringing  
And groining arches like fingers interlaced;  
Each youth a king who walks the common kingdom,  
Clad in the seamless robe, with lifted head;  
Each girl a queen, love's roses in her bosom,  
Walking beside him with an equal tread.  
I will set song upon the lips of singers  
Who slumber still uncalled from out the dust,  
I will light fires upon unnumbered altars,  
Love shall be honest, justice shall be just.  
I have not cried alone within the desert,  
Ye go not out to find a broken reed;  
I have clasped Him who walks the pillared darkness,  
I have not wrestled with Him feeble-kneed.  
About my loins I gird a sword that flashes  
With lightnings hidden in the marching cloud;  
I break above your heads the awful tablets,  
And fling the fragments to the wheeling crowd.  
Out of such sowing shall come mighty reaping,  
Hearts are the fields, and songs the seed I sow:  
Ye shall not know until the time of reaping  
What hand upheld me, but I know, I know!

WILLARD WATTLES

## LIFE

THEY do not live who only know  
    The dull procession of Life's flow,  
They have no faith who never  
Risk all, and in one hour of youth  
Reach the subliminal self where Truth  
    Floods light and crowns endeavour.

They do not die who find in death  
    The great adventure, the first breath  
    Whence came this life from God:  
Who, taking wings, laugh down at earth,  
Leap skywards, and with boyish mirth  
    Run where the angels trod.

CECIL ROBERTS

## EVERY ONE SANG

EVERY one suddenly burst out singing;  
And I was filled with such delight  
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,  
Winging wildly across the white  
Orchards and dark-green fields;  
    on — on — and out of sight.

Every one's voice was suddenly lifted;  
And beauty came like the setting sun:

My heart was shaken with tears; and horror  
Drifted away . . . O, but Every one  
Was a bird; and the song was wordless;  
the singing will never be done.

SIEGFRIED SASSOON

### THE SINGERS IN A CLOUD

OVERHEAD at sunset all heard the choir.  
Nothing could be seen except jewelled grey  
Raining beauty earthward, flooding with desire  
All things that listened there in the broken day;  
Songs from freer breathers, their unprisoned fire  
Out of cloudy fountains, flying and hurled,  
Fell and warmed the world.

Sudden came a wind and birds were laid bare,  
Only music warmed them round their brown breasts.  
They had sent the splendours pouring through the air,  
Love was their heat and home far above their nests.  
Light went softly out and left their voices there.  
Starward passed for ever all that great cry,  
Burning, round the sky.

On the earth the battles war against light,  
Heavy lies the harrow, bitter the field.  
Beauty, like a river running through the night,  
Streams past the stricken one whom it would have healed

But the darkened faces turn away from sight.  
Blind, bewildered nations sow, reap, and fall,  
Shadows gather all.

Far above the birdsong bright shines the gold.  
Through the starry orchards earth's paths are hung;  
As she moves among them glowing fruits unfold,  
Such that the heavens there reawaken young.  
Overhead is beauty, healing for the old.  
Overhead is morning, nothing but youth,  
Only lovely youth.

RIDGELY TORRENCE

### HEROES

FAIR is their fame who stand in earth's high places,  
Rulers of men, strong-armed to break and bind.  
Fairer the light which shines from comrade faces:  
Those we have loved, and lost, and kept in mind.

These be our heroes, hearts unnamed in story,  
Foot-firm that stood, and swerved not from the right;  
Though in the world's eyes they attained no glory,  
Girt to their goal they gained the wished-for height.

Now for reward no after-age shall sunder  
These from their right to rest without a name.  
Wide are the wings of heaven which fold them under,  
Who to the Winds of God resign their fame.

Blow, ye great Winds! Where'er man's spirit labours  
Breathe on his lips breath from the life they spent!  
Comrades to all their kind, dear friends and neighbors,  
There, where the work goes well, they rest content.

They are the race, — they are the race immortal,  
Whose beams make broad the common light of day!  
Though Time may dim, though Death hath barred their portal,  
These we salute, which nameless passed away.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN

#### THE DIVINE STRATEGY

No soul can be forever banned,  
Eternally bereft,  
Whoever falls from God's right hand  
Is caught into his left.

EDWIN MARKHAM

#### AMERICA

SHE is young and beautiful — my country —  
Mother of many children.  
She is free.  
Years ago,  
A slim girl running on sea sand,  
She heard Niagara shouting the message of mountains,

And the great lakes singing softly  
Of prairies that swing in the wind.  
How could she stay, keeping soft and white her rich and  
powerful hands?

She rose and walked like the sun into the west:  
Sowing, reaping, felling the forests,  
Digging out coal and iron and gold from the hills.  
Onward, outward —  
Past rivers like a sea,  
And mountains that snowily, secretly, kiss the moon —  
Out to shining Arizona athirst in the sun  
And Oregon shaggy with firs by her northern ocean,  
Whom the silver Sierras link together forever.

And she gathered the children of many races into her arms,  
And said, "Hate dies here — be brothers."  
She lifted the humble to the high place,  
And the proud she rebuked with a laugh.

At ease in her strength she lay dreaming  
When the heat of the day was done.  
But suddenly — far away —  
Out of the thick black night, out of the past,  
Came the terrible booming of guns,  
The tramp of armies, marching over fallen towers,  
Over cottages collapsing into dust.  
And through the iron clamor she heard agony calling —

The bitter cries of children starved and driven,  
Of young girls ravished,  
Of boys ripped open on the trench-strung field;  
And the dull groans of the old  
Prodded from the flaming door.

Once more the incredible thing —  
The tyrant gorged and ruthless  
Spitting red war in the face of the world!  
Once more Freedom at bay — threatened, defiant —  
Calling her chosen,  
Lifting her rainbow-colored flags to the sun!

My country,  
Beautiful and strong,  
Startled, slowly arising,  
Hearing at last the insult,  
Feeling the crimson mist in her eyes,  
My country stood up tall to the height of the world —  
Straight and tall,  
From the blue Caribbean at her feet  
To her coronal of islands  
Strung from the Arctic sea.  
And she summoned her staves,  
And breathed in their ears the iron vow of war —  
War to the end, to the death, war to the life,  
War of the free, for the free, till the world is freed.

She gathered her armies,  
Her millions of sons,  
And loosed them like flakes of snow to the storm,  
Bidding them cover and smother and put out forever  
The abysmal abominable fires.  
In massive drifts she hurled them,  
Over land and sea and through blue trails of air —  
Crystal souls of youth,  
That seized the sun in a flash  
And flung it to whatever eye would see,  
Spending, giving their light, lest it be put out in the wind.  
She bade them move innumerabley, mass on mass,  
To smother and quench forever the infernal fires,  
And nourish the new spring —  
The flower-fringed hope of the world.

O my country,  
Seeker of freedom,  
How shall she pause in the ways of peace or war  
On her long march toward the far-off invisible goal —  
The city of white towers,  
The city of love,  
Where the nations of the earth shall meet in joy together,  
And the souls of men shall be free!

HARRIET MONROE

## IN SALUTATION TO THE ETERNAL PEACE

MEN say the world is full of fear and hate,  
And all life's ripening harvest-fields await  
The restless sickle of relentless fate.

But I, sweet Soul, rejoice that I was born,  
When from the climbing terraces of corn  
I watch the golden orioles of Thy morn.

What care I for the world's desire and pride,  
Who know the silver wings that gleam and glide,  
The homing pigeons of Thine eventide?

What care I for the world's loud weariness,  
Who dream in twilight granaries Thou dost bless  
With delicate sheaves of mellow silences?

SAROJINI NAIDU

## JOY TO YOU

Joy to you and gladness,  
And that your soul may be  
As far away from sadness  
As the star was from the sea,  
When the Sheep-Boy, the Sheep-Boy,  
Heard Heaven's melody.

Smiles to you and laughter,  
And also that you may  
Be merry the morning after  
On good St. Stephen's Day,  
When the Wren-Boy, the Wren-Boy,  
Shall sing his roundelay.

Joy to you and gladness,  
And that the mid-night bell  
May ring away the sadness  
From the stricken old year's knell,  
When the Chimes-Boy, the Chimes-Boy,  
Strikes "Welcome" and "Farewell."

FRANCIS CARLIN

### COURAGE, ALL!

OLD gods, avaunt! The rosy East is waking,  
And in the dawn your shapes of clay are shaking:  
Ye broke men's hearts, and now your own are breaking.

Over all lands a wingèd hope is flying:  
It goes without reproof, without replying:  
It bears God's courage to the dulled and dying.

The rusted chain that bound the world is broken;  
A new strange star pricks down the night for token;  
And the Great Word is waiting to be spoken!

EDWIN MARKHAM

## SONG OF THE NEW WORLD

I sing the song of a new Dawn waking,  
A new wind shaking  
The children of men.

I say the hearts that are nigh to breaking  
Shall leap with gladness and live again.

Over the woe of the world appalling,  
Wild and sweet as a bugle cry,

Sudden I hear a new voice calling —  
“Beauty is nigh!”

Beauty is nigh! Let the world believe it.  
Love has covered the fields of dead.

Healing is here! Let the earth receive it,  
Greeting the Dawn with lifted head.

I sing the song of the sin forgiven,  
The deed forgotten, the wrong undone.

Lo, in the East, where the dark is riven,  
Shines the rim of the rising sun.

Healing is here! O brother, sing it!  
Laugh, O heart, that has grieved so long.

Love will gather your woe and fling it  
Over the world in waves of song.

Hearken, mothers, and hear them coming —  
Heralds crying the day at hand.  
Faint and far as the sound of drumming,  
Hear their summons across the land.

Look, O fathers! Your eyes were holden —  
    Armies throng where the dead have lain.  
Fiery steeds and chariots golden —  
    Gone is the dream of soldiers slain.  
Sing, O sing of a new world waking,  
    Sing of creation just begun.  
Glad is the earth when morn is breaking —  
    Man is facing the rising sun!

ANGELA MORGAN

#### THE COMING OF DAWN

MIDNIGHT — the black, dead vast of night,  
    Rain dripping slow on the sod,  
Fear of the future, darkness-born,  
    Doubt of myself and God.

A sudden flush on the face of night,  
    A veil from my soul withdrawn,  
A bird-note thrilling the silence through.  
    And after that — the dawn.

GRACE ATHERTON DENNEN

#### A NEW STAR

My soul has brought forth a new star  
    of great lustre, peopled with a new  
race of men.

It swings in a new sky, upheld between  
the visible poles of Truth and  
Mercy.

The clouds pour rains of heavenly Pity,  
the mornings beam with rays of  
Charity,

The waters taste ambrosia-sweet and  
murmur the song of Forgiveness,  
The girdling forests are full of trees and  
creepers bearing fruits called Right,  
Faith, Knowledge, Peace and Wisdom.

The air is fragrant with the scent of  
honey-flowers — it is so sweet a  
thing to breathe!

There 't is a wondrous joy to see the  
hearts and thoughts of men,  
And women are fair of soul as they are  
fair of face.

There birds and beasts and fish and  
worms are good and beautiful,  
And live and work in mutual trust and  
sweet humility.

And the bright gods sit in the blue  
halls of light and rule the true-  
souled denizens of my star at the  
command of Love-born Harmony.

ŚRĪ ĀNANDA ĀCHĀRYA

### SEMI-CHORUSES AND CHORUS FROM "THE DYNASTS"

"To Thee whose eye all Nature owns,  
Who hurlest Dynasts from their thrones,  
And liftest those of low estate  
We sing, with Her men consecrate!"

"Yea, Great and Good, Thee, Thee we hail,  
Who shak'st the strong, Who shield'st the frail,  
Who hadst not shaped such souls as we  
If tender mercy lacked in Thee!"

"Though times be when the mortal moan  
Seems unascending to Thy throne,  
Though seers do not as yet explain  
Why Suffering sobs to Thee in vain;"

"We hold that Thy unscanted scope  
Affords a food for final Hope,  
That mild-eyed Prescience ponders nigh  
Life's loom, to lull it by-and-by."

"Therefore we quire to highest height  
The Wellwiller, the kindly Might  
That balances the Vast for weal,  
That purges as by wounds to heal."

*Chorus*

But — a stirring thrills the air  
Like to sounds of joyance there  
    That the rages  
    Of the ages

Shall be cancelled, and deliverance offered from the darts that  
    were,  
Consciousness the Will informing, till It fashion all things fair!

THOMAS HARDY

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